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Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-90-034
Tuesday
20 February 1990

Daily Report
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FBIS-EAS-90-034 | CONTENTS | 20 February 1990

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

U.S. Defense Secretary Arrives at Kadena *[KYODO]* 1
  Matsumoto on U.S. Troop Cut *[KYODO]* 1
Reportage on House of Representatives Election 1
  LDP Declares Victory *[KYODO]* 1
  Kaifu Vows To Assert Leadership *[KYODO]* 2
  Kaifu Holds News Conference *[Tokyo TV]* 3
  Nakayama Briefs Media *[KYODO]* 7
  Statistics on Final Outcome *[KYODO]* 8
  Table of Votes Won by Parties *[KYODO]* 9
  Table of Strength of Parties *[KYODO]* 9
  Final Election Turnout Figures *[KYODO]* 9
  Special Diet Session Due *[KYODO]* 9
  Politicians Involved in Recruit Win *[KYODO]* 9
  Sosuke Uno Reelected *[KYODO]* 10
  Nakasone Declares Slate Clean *[KYODO]* 10
  2d-Generation Politicians Elected *[KYODO]* 11
  Notable Figures Lose Seats *[KYODO]* 11
  Opposition Leaders Comment *[KYODO]* 11
  JSP's Doi Urges Cooperation *[KYODO]* 12
  Campaign Supervisors Comment *[KYODO]* 12
  Business Leaders Welcome Results *[KYODO]* 13
  Further From Business Leaders *[KYODO]* 14
  Foreign Businesses Hail Stability *[KYODO]* 14
  Six Arrested for Election Violations *[KYODO]* 15
  430 Face Charges for 'Irregularities' *[KYODO]* 15
  Minister Criticizes TV Coverage *[KYODO]* 16
Analysts Say Voters 'Rejected' Abrupt Change *[KYODO]* 16
Papers Say Elections Show People Favor Status Quo *[KYODO]* 17
LDP Victory Brings New Challenges for Diplomacy *[KYODO]* 17
Tougher U.S. Trade Stance Feared After Election *[KYODO]* 18
Ministry To Seek Restraint on Investment in U.S. *[KYODO]* 19

Mongolia

Sodnom Says Mongolia Seeks Multiparty Reform *[Tokyo KYODO]* 19
Politburo Member Predicts 'Purge' of Party *[East Berlin ADN]* 20
MDA Leader Holds News Conference on Congress *[MONTSAME]* 20
MDA Holds First Constituent Congress 18 Feb *[Ulaanbaatar International]* 21
Formation of New Political Party Reported 21
  Ulaanbaatar Reports Inauguration 21
  KYODO Reports Debut 21
  MPRP Allows Live Coverage *[AFP]* 21
Council of Ministers' Resignation Demanded *[Ulaanbaatar International]* 21
DSM Demands Dismissal of People's Great Hural *[Ulaanbaatar International]* 22
Batmonh Chairs Commission on New Party Program *[Ulaanbaatar International]* 22

North Korea

- NODONG SINMUN Cited on Cheney's Tour 22
  - KCNA Denounces 'Occupation' 22
  - Pyongyang Radio Assails Junket 23
- MAC Member Demands Cancellation of Exercise *[Pyongyang Radio]* 24
- Pyongyang on U.S. Doubling ROK Defense Burden *[KCNA]* 24
- U.S. 'Armed Intervention' Against Cuba Decried *[KCNA]* 25
- U.S. 'Reckless Arbitrariness' Denounced *[KCNA]* 25
- North Proposes Youth, Worker Inspections of Wall *[Pyongyang Radio]* 26
- Foreign Demands for Wall's Removal Recounted 26
  - Committee Wants Wall Razed *[KCNA]* 26
  - 'Wall of Division' Denounced *[KCNA]* 27
- Opposition to Consultative Meeting Assailed *[KCNA]* 27
- Sports Talks Assessed; Single Team Demanded 28
  - Paper Views Talks' 'Rupturing' *[KCNA]* 28
  - North Delegate Sends Message *[Pyongyang Radio]* 28
  - Further on Phone Message *[KCNA]* 29
- 'Wind of Liberty' Appeal Called Hypocritical *[KCNA]* 29
- Wonsan Students Demand Release of Yim Su-kyong *[KCNA]* 30
- More Than 10,000 Slogan-Bearing Trees Found *[KCNA]* 30
- Film on 'Bright Star' of Mt. Paektu Released *[KCNA]* 31
- Kim Chong-il's Birthday Noted, Celebrated 31
  - Mubarak, 'Arafat Send Messages *[KCNA]* 31
  - Ratsiraka Forwards Greetings *[KCNA]* 31
  - Messages From Austria, Uganda *[KCNA]* 32
  - Chongnyon Sends Greetings *[KCNA]* 32
  - Birthday Celebrated in Japan *[KCNA]* 33
  - Groups in Japan Note Birthday *[KCNA]* 33
  - Literature Mailed in South *[KCNA]* 33
  - Poster Reported in South *[KCNA]* 34
- Austrian President Supports Korean Unification *[KCNA]* 34
- Lao Acting President Rejects Ties With South *[KCNA]* 34
- Delegation Visiting Laos Issues Communique *[KCNA]* 34
- Reunification News Conference Staged in Paris *[KCNA]* 34
- Kim Il-song Congratulates Namibian President *[KCNA]* 35

South Korea

- Journal Reports Kim Il-song Will Retire Soon *[Seoul TV]* 35
- Kim Chong-il 'Great Leader' Title Discounted *[YONHAP]* 35
- Defense Secretary Cheney Leaves Seoul 17 Feb *[YONHAP]* 36
- Defense Issues With U.S. Remain Unresolved *[HANGYORE SINMUN 18 Feb]* 37
- Regular Seoul-Moscow Flights Announced *[YONHAP]* 37
- Shevardnadze's 'Wall' Statement Draws Reaction 38
  - Gerasimov Explains Remarks *[HANGUK ILBO 19 Feb]* 38
  - Local Media Respond *[TONG-A ILBO, etc.]* 38
- Lawmaker To Map Out Kim Yong-sam Moscow Visit *[YONHAP]* 40
- Developing Relations With USSR Analyzed *[YONHAP]* 40
- China Not To Establish Relations With ROK *[SEOUL SINMUN 17 Feb]* 41
- Kim Tae-chung Calls for Moving Panmunjom Talks *[YONHAP]* 41
- Abroad, North Softens Attitude Toward South *[HANGUK ILBO 18 Feb]* 41
- North Allegedly Apologizes to Hungary, Poland *[CHUNGANG ILBO 19 Feb]* 42
- North Korea Urged To Come to Dialogue, Exchange *[TONG-A ILBO 13 Feb]* 42
- Cho Sun Says Government To Push Reforms *[YONHAP]* 43
- Ministry To Impose New Controls on Military *[YONHAP]* 43
- Dissident Sentenced to Seven Years in Prison *[YONHAP]* 44
- South To Use Locally Produced Fuel in Reactor *[YONHAP]* 44
- Observation Satellite To Upgrade Technology *[YONHAP]* 44
- Korean Carriers To Ship Natural Gas Imports *[YONHAP]* 45
- Authorities Keep Watch on Illegal Workers *[THE KOREA TIMES 15 Feb]* 45

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

Aung San Suu Kyi's Exclusion Confirmed *[Tokyo KYODO]* 46
Diplomats Say Opposition Leaders Detained *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 17 Feb]* 46

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir on Western Investment, Eastern Europe *[BERNAMA]* 47
Deadline Extended for CPM To Surrender Arms *[AFP]* 47
Defense Industry Cooperation With ROK Viewed *[BERNAMA]* 48
Iranian Mission Led by Musavi Arrives 19 Feb *[BERNAMA]* 48

Singapore

Lee Kuan Yew Interviewed on Perestroyka *[THE STRAITS TIMES 16 Feb]* 48
ASEAN Issues in Post-Cambodian Period Viewed *[THE STRAITS TIMES 16 Feb]* 49
Reportage on Visit of Soviet Prime Minister 49
    Help With Cambodia Urged *[AFP]* 49
    Ryzhkov Urges Bigger Soviet Role *[AFP]* 50
    Holds News Conference, Departs *[Singapore Radio]* 50

Cambodia

Hun Sen To Talk to Sihanouk in Thailand 'Soon' *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 51
    Further on Upcoming Meeting *[Bangkok THE NATION 19 Feb]* 51
    Sihanouk Talks About Meeting *[Bangkok TV]* 51
    Fighting on 'Possible Route' *[AFP]* 52
    Hun Sen Departs for Talks *[SPK]* 53
Government Recapture of Svay Chek Unconfirmed *[AFP]* 53
Heng Samrin, Hun Sen Receive U.S. Senator *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 53
Supreme Soviet Group Meets Heng Samrin, Leaves *[SPK]* 54
Heng Samrin Reaffirms Commitment To Fight *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 54
Defense Ministry Reports 3-10 Feb 'Victories' *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 56
14 Feb 'Success' in Banteay Meanchey Reported *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 56
'Cambodian National Government' Communique *[Radio VODK]* 57
Sihanouk Support for DK in Solution Cited *[Radio VONADK]* 57
Sihanouk Cited on 'Obstacle' to Settlement *[Radio VONADK]* 57
Sihanouk Said Pessimistic About Jakarta Talks *[Radio VONADK]* 57
VONADK Reports Mutiny in Koh Kong Province 57
    Units Involved in Mutiny Listed *[Radio VONADK]* 58
'Captured' SRV Officer on Troops in Battambang *[Radio VONADK]* 58
SRV 'Crack Troops' Said Back in Country *[Paris LE MONDE 9 Feb]* 58
500 SRV Troops Said Stationed in Kompong Cham *[Radio VONADK]* 59
Heng Samrin Regime Dissolution Proposal Viewed *[Radio VOK]* 59

Laos

U.S. Statement on Attacks on Villages Rebuffed *[Vientiane Radio]* 59
Hun Sen Stops in Vientiane on Way to Bangkok *[Vientiane Radio]* 60
    Meets Kaysone Phomvihan *[Vientiane Radio]* 60
Usmanov Meets With Kaysone Phomvihan, Departs *[Vientiane Radio]* 60
Cambodian Party Delegation Arrives for Visit *[KPL]* 61
Information, Culture Delegation Visits Vietnam *[Vientiane Radio]* 61

Philippines

Reportage on Visit of U.S. Secretary of Defense 61

Cheney Said Targetted *[Manila Radio]* ... 61
Defense Secretary Cheney Arrives *[Quezon City Radio]* ... 62
30 Injured in Anti-Cheney Rally *[Quezon City Radio]* ... 62
Tear Gas Fired at Demonstrators *[Manila Radio]* ... 62
Policemen Hurt in Demonstration *[Manila Radio]* ... 62
Ramos Happy With Meeting Results *[Manila Radio]* ... 63
Aquino Welcomes Assistance *[Quezon City Radio]* ... 63
Cheney Leaves for Japan 20 Feb *[Quezon City Radio]* ... 64
Students Mount Protest at Clark *[Quezon City Radio-TV]* ... 64
Escort Said 'Vulgar Show' *[BUSINESS WORLD 20 Feb]* ... 64
USSR's Gerasimov Reportedly Arrives in Manila *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 19 Feb]* ... 64
Comments on U.S. Keeping Bases *[Manila Radio]* ... 65
Dismisses 'Power Vacuum' Fears *[BUSINESS WORLD 20 Feb]* ... 65
Aquino Reiterates Bases Talks To Begin in Apr *[Quezon City Radio]* ... 66
Talks To Include Nuclear Policy *[Quezon City Radio-TV]* ... 66
Congressman Gillego Responds *[Quezon City Radio]* ... 66
Editorial Says U.S. Media 'Being Manipulated' *[PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE 19 Feb]* ... 66
Intelligence Security Chief Killed in Manila *[Quezon City Radio]* ... 67
De Villa Orders Release of Suspected Coupists *[Quezon City Radio]* ... 67

Thailand

Sihanouk Returning to Occupied Territory 23 Feb *[AFP]* ... 67
Official Comments on Ramifications *[BANGKOK POST 17 Feb]* ... 68
Sihanouk To Meet Hun Sen For Talks in Bangkok ... 68
Says Prepared To Meet *[BANGKOK POST 17 Feb]* ... 68
Chatchai Comments on Talks *[BANGKOK POST 18 Feb]* ... 69
Chawalit To Escort Hun Sen *[THE NATION 20 Feb]* ... 69
Spokesman Outlines Agenda *[Bangkok Radio]* ... 70
Italy's De Michelis Visits To Strengthen Ties ... 70
Talks With Chatchai *[Bangkok Radio]* ... 70
Talks With Sitthi *[Radio VOFA]* ... 71
Ceremony Planned for Destroying CPM Weapons *[BANGKOK POST 20 Feb]* ... 71
Top Aides Call For Bank Governor's Resignation *[THE NATION 19 Feb]* ... 72

Vietnam

NHAN DAN Discusses 'Bush's Ambitions' *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 72
Meetings Held on Party's Mass-Proselytizing Work ... 73
VFF Discusses Platform *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 73
Youths, Students Meet *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 74
Workers Confederation Debates *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 75

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Opposition Leader Confident of Election Victory *[AFP]* ... 76

Kiribati

Works, Energy Minister Ieruru Karotu Dies *[Melbourne International]* ... 76

Papau New Guinea

Somare Voices Support for Prime Minister *[Melbourne International]* ... 76

Japan

U.S. Defense Secretary Arrives at Kadena

OW2002054490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0532 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 20 KYODO—U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney arrived at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa Prefecture on Tuesday at the start of a five-day visit to Japan. He will fly to Tokyo on Tuesday evening.

Cheney will discuss defense issues with Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and Juro Matsumoto, director general of the Defense Agency, on Thursday. Japan is the final stop on a two-week tour of U.S. allies in Asia which has already taken Cheney to Seoul and Manila.

Matsumoto on U.S. Troop Cut

OW2002082590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0756 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 20 KYODO—Defense Agency chief Juro Matsumoto said Tuesday any cuts made by the United States in its troops in Japan will not damage overall military strength.

In his first comment admitting the possibility of U.S. troops cuts in Japan, Matsumoto stressed that "efficiency and streamlining" would be the aim of any force reductions proposed by U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney in talks in Tokyo during his five-day visit this week.

Cheney arrived Tuesday afternoon in southern Okinawa, where he is to tour facilities for some 35,000 of the 50,000 U.S. military personnel stationed in bases throughout Japan. The U.S. defense chief had announced troop cutbacks of 10 percent in previous stops on his Asian tour in South Korea and the Philippines.

Matsumoto said it is clear there is "absolutely no intention of lowering the qualitative level" of the U.S. troop strength. Diplomatic sources in Manila said there are plans to cut the number of U.S. troop in Japan by 4,000 to 5,000.

Statements from the Foreign Ministry the same day took a dim view of reports of intended troop cuts, saying Japan is "satisfied" with present troop levels and attributing such moves to domestic pressures in the U.S. rather than a reduced military threat in Asia. In addition to the cuts, Cheney is expected to table requests for increased burden-sharing during his five-day visit.

Matsumoto said the agency would "listen, thoroughly think out and then make a decision of our own" on U.S. requests for a greater Japanese contribution to the 6 billion dollars a year it costs to maintain U.S. troops in Japan.

Cheney, backed by U.S. congressional pressure, may request up to 4.5 billion dollars in support, according to sources in Washington. Japan now pays some 2.5 billion dollars, about 40 percent of the total costs. Both U.S. and Japanese officials have emphasized the "voluntary" nature of Japanese contributions, downplaying reports of actual numbers to be proposed.

International tensions, especially in the Soviet Union, the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, and future technical exchanges will also be discussed, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Japan is expecting "not just short-term but more about the mid- and long-term" in discussions on the "significance" of the security relationship, according to the head of the ministry's security treaty division, Toshinori Shigeie. Shigeie said despite major changes in U.S. strategy in the European theater, there would be "no fundamental changes" in Japan "in the forseeable future."

Ministry officials will also discuss U.S. intentions toward the Asia-Pacific region as a whole, Shigeie said.

Reportage on House of Representatives Election

LDP Declares Victory

OW1902053490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0501 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu declared victory Monday in the general election for the House of Representatives.

"The Japanese voters wanted political stability and gave the LDP-led government the mandate to steer the course of the country in the 1990s," LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa said in a statement.

The Japan Socialist Party [JSP], the country's main opposition party, which boosted its strength in the lower house to a 23-year high in Sunday's poll, also claimed it had achieved a triumph.

JSP Chairwoman Takako Doi said she "feels that the voters moved a mountain again," repeating a remark she made when the largest opposition party defeated the LDP in last July's House of Councillors election.

The LDP, overcoming voter discontent with its unpopular tax policy and with a series of bribery scandals, won 275 seats, well above a simple majority of 257 and also above a stable majority of 271. The stable majority is the number of seats the party needed to be able to appoint the chairmen of all the lower house's standing committees. The size of the LDP's majority shrank, however, from its previous strength of 295 at the time of the house dissolution on January 24.

The JSP won 136 seats, up sharply from 85 at the dissolution, chiefly because of the booming popularity among voters of the country's first woman political leader, Takako Doi. Voters' sentiment against the unpopular 3 percent consumption tax also helped the JSP boost its strength.

Three other opposition parties, Komeito, the Japan Communist Party (JCP), and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), all suffered miserable setbacks.

Komeito, the second-largest opposition party, captured 45 seats, down from 54 at the dissolution, the JCP got 16, down from 26, and the DSP 14, down from 25. The United Social Democratic Party chalked up four seats, and the minor conservative party, the Progressive Party, got one.

In addition, there were 21 successful independents, including former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and his one-time chief of staff Takao Fujinami.

The LDP's strength will be boosted to at least 284 since the ruling party is set to recruit nine successful conservative independents, LDP sources said. The LDP is also planning to recruit three more independents, the sources said.

DSP Chairman Eiichi Nagasue hinted at resigning as party head to assume responsibility for his party's loss, saying, "As a matter of fact, (I'm) considering taking responsibility."

Meanwhile, JSP Chairwoman Doi proposed an early summit meeting between her and Prime Minister Kaifu, the president of the LDP, to discuss how to manage the state politics. Doi, renewing her call for abolishing the consumption tax, said business in the Diet may be stalled unless the LDP puts a freeze on or revises sharply the indirect tax, imposed on almost all types of goods and services since last April.

With the LDP's convincing victory in the general election, Prime Minister Kaifu is assured of staying in office, political analysts said. Kaifu, who became premier last summer following the LDP's loss in the second chamber, the House of Councillors, will be reelected prime minister at an upcoming special session of the Diet, government sources said. He will launch his second cabinet after that, they said.

Kaifu, who belongs to the LDP's second-smallest faction, is expected to face political upheavals in the Diet, however, because of his weak power base in the ruling party, the analysts said. Steering the Diet will be another difficult matter because of the opposition's control over the upper house.

JSP leader Doi expressed deep regret for having allowed the LDP to seize a comfortable majority. She said that she had wanted to see the LDP lose.

The LDP's Ozawa said that the LDP and the JSP should hold serious talks on various issues to meet the people's expectations. Chief Cabinet Secretary Mayumi Moriyama told reporters that the people expressed their support for the Kaifu administration and his ruling party.

Women gained 12 seats, more than at any time in the past 49 years, with the JSP winning seven.

Political analysts attributed the poor performances of Komeito, the DSP, and the JCP to their insufficient preparations for the election and to a fierce contest between the major parties, the LDP and the JSP. The DSP's new strength of 14 is the smallest since its foundation in 1960.

Kaifu Vows To Assert Leadership

OW1902061490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0541 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu expressed his will Monday to assert his leadership to achieve campaign promises after his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) won an absolute majority in Sunday's House of Representatives election.

"The LDP members were one at heart to win the election," he said, adding that now it is time for the party to make efforts to realize election promises. "I'll be taking the leadership," he said.

In a television interview, Kaifu thanked voters for the victory, saying, "Our ardent pleas and the hard efforts of our candidates are approved. Our specific policies gained positive support."

After the election win, senior LDP members expressed continued support of Kaifu, who comes from the smallest LDP faction.

On international issues, Kaifu said his party is committed to making Japan into a country that plays a bigger role in the world.

The governing party gained 275 of 512 seats in Sunday's election to retain a comfortable majority in the powerful lower house. The party held 295 seats when the house was dissolved.

Asked if the victory shows the nation accepted the controversial 3 percent consumption tax, Kaifu said the LDP is to submit to the Diet a revised bill on the taxation system, a bill which was killed last year by the opposition-controlled House of Councillors.

"For the nation and for the next century, we must discuss the tax issue with the opposition camp. They have their own ideas on taxes. At least we can share the view to seek an indirect tax," he said.

Kaifu also vowed to commit himself to such domestic issues as the fast aging Japanese society and Japan's high consumer prices in comparison with prices abroad.

Kaifu Holds News Conference

OW1902105990 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0600 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Postelection news conference by Liberal Democratic Party, LDP, President Toshiki Kaifu with unidentified correspondents at the LDP Headquarters in Tokyo; presided over by an unidentified "secretary" of the press corps covering the LDP—live]

[Text] [Secretary] Well, we will now begin a news conference by President Kaifu. I trust it to your discretion. This is scheduled to last for approximately 30 minutes. First, the secretary will ask six questions on behalf of the press corps. After that, if there is time left, you will be allowed to ask your questions freely. [addressing Kaifu] Thank you very much.

[Kaifu] Thank you very much.

[Secretary] Mr. President, you must be tired after a long stretch of election campaigns. The LDP [Liberal Democratic Party] did very well, winning more than a stable majority. How do you accept the results of the election? This may sound like a stock question, but will you please state your thoughts about the choice of systems and the voters' judgment on the consumption tax, which were focal points at issue?

[Kaifu] First of all, I want to say that I am grateful to the nation for its cooperation in various ways during the election period. I am very grateful to the people for the outcome of the general elections this time. In retrospect, I assumed the presidency after the upper house elections, the result of which was described as the biggest crisis since the birth of the LDP. Since the Kaifu cabinet started from the rock bottom and crawled on hands and knees, I faced the latest election with serious determination that it was by no means an easy situation. Accordingly, I cherished the desire to win a majority in one way or another through the people's judgment—I wanted to win as many seats as possible.

With this desire all our party members pooled their strength together and made efforts throughout the country with the result that the LDP won so much support. I am grateful for this. Your question is what do I think about the two issues about which I appealed during the election campaigns. Regarding the choice of systems, I think that we should not view the issue as a question between liberalism and socialism, or which side won and which side lost. Historically the victor and the loser have already been decided. That is what I appealed for. I visited Europe at the outset of this year and it was immediately after the collapse of the Berlin Wall. The wall divided the same German nation for 28 years, producing that big of a gap. The people bade farewell to socialism and said they did not need the wall. So, I think that we better move a step farther, rather than speak about who won and who lost or talk for and against liberalism. If those people who groaned under the socialist-controlled economy until yesterday ask Japan for cooperation, it should render it with pleasure in order to create a new world order. Diplomatically Japan should actively cooperate in making a new framework for the world. That was my appeal. I asked the voters if they would let the LDP continue to take the reigns of the government or entrust it to a coalition government of the opposition parties. Since it was electioneering time, I made some tough remarks about the opposition. Which side do you think can better contribute to the world? I made speeches from this angle. Would it be wrong to think that the people showed their sympathy with my appeal?

All the domestic political issues do not boil down to the consumption tax only, but it is true that the consumption tax was a very big issue. So, when I spoke in the streets or at meeting halls, I said that, although it is not a pleasant matter to talk about taxes, your just born children or grandchildren will be saddled with an unbearable burden in the future unless you bear it. Unless you bear it, it will be impossible to support a future aging society. Therefore, the tax system should be so revised as to make the burden borne commonly on a fair, broad, and thin basis. This is the consumption tax, I said. Taking criticism into consideration, we will boldly review the bill and submit the revised bill to the next Diet session. As regards its content—I will avoid cracking a joke here [Kaifu laughs]—I will explain neatly, I said and I appealed to them for their understanding.

Along with that, the party stated concrete policies on such issues as an aging society to come in the future, the prices, and what we should do to live a happy life full of vigor. I should add that all the candidates—of course, they have been working hard all the while—appealed to the voters with a more serious sense of crisis than before. They appealed to the voters that they must let the LDP win with more than a majority under any circumstances.

Since the opposition called for preventing the LDP from winning a majority of seats, we single-mindedly strove so as not to lose a majority. This produced that result and I take it as a public recognition of our appeals.

[Secetary] The party's opinion appears to be roughly settled on keeping you, Prime Minister Kaifu, at your present post. Taking a look at the election results, the people also feel that it will be a matter of common sense. Mr. President, how do you feel about it yourself and do you have any determination to reveal?

[Kaifu] I was given a term of office as the LDP president on the party's unanimous recommendation last October. The latest election has been held during this term of my office. I stated unequivocally that should the LDP fail to win a majority of seats in the Diet, I would hold myself politically responsible. Thanks to the efforts made by everyone, we won more than a majority of seats. I do not know if it can be called a stable majority or not but we won the people's support. Therefore, I think that I must take the lead in carrying into practice what we have promised the people during the elections. I think that in most cases I will be asking for cooperation in various ways but I must carry out the policies anyway with the understanding of our party people.

[Secretary] Next, I would like to turn to the formation of a new cabinet and the appointments of party executive posts. Rumors have it that the Miyazawa faction, for example, desires to get one of the top three party posts. What are your thoughts about these personnel affairs?

[Kaifu] Let me put aside that specific matter, which you have brought up. We fought in the election with a whole party posture and we are about to carry out policies with the party's unanimous agreement—with everyone joining efforts. Therefore, I also want to ask for cooperation in personnel affairs from the viewpoint of a whole party posture.

[Secretary] Before long the Diet will be called into an extraordinary session.

[Kaifu] Yes.

[Secretary] When are you thinking of convening it and what will be the character of the session? Former Deputy Prime Minister Kanemaru of the Takeshita faction suggested that a decision on when to convene the session should be made after setting an itinerary for talks with the opposition for its cooperation. So, what are your thoughts about the timing of the convocation of the session and the character of the session?

[Kaifu] It is stipulated that an extraordinary Diet session be convened within 30 days after an election. However—you asked how I define the character of the session—as long as a Diet session is called, the forthcoming session will have to deal with not only the composition of the house but also with the fiscal 1989 supplementary budget as well as the 1990 budget. I hope to convene the session at the earliest possible opportunity if it can be agreed. I think that it will be an important session in substance in that it must start deliberating the supplementary budget for this year first of all.

[Secretary] In the same vein, I want to ask you how you will deal with the opposition in the Diet. Although your party won a stable majority in the House of Representatives, its position in the House of Councillors remains reversed. In this regard, how do you intend to create a framework of cooperation between the government and opposition? Influential leaders in the LDP have been heard to talk about a coalition or a partial coalition. What do you think about this? Mr. Prime Minister, in the course of Diet deliberations you have indicated a posture to deal with the consumption tax issue with flexibility, but how do you seek to bring about coopertion between the government and opposition? That is my question.

[Kaifu] I am not inflexible concerning the consumption tax issue but, basically, I think that the government and opposition should talk about and deal with the steering of the Diet, putting the whole thing in perspective. In the first part of your question, you mentioned that, although the LDP won a stable majority in the lower house, its position in the upper house remains reversed. You are indeed correct. Therefore, since the positions of the government and opposition are reversed, if someone says that nothing can be accomplished, then what is parliamentary government's raison d'etre? So, I will appeal to the opposition with an open mind that the parliament exists for the sake of the people. Dialogues should be held in all areas. I think that the Diet should be a venue where the government and opposition exchange dialogues with sincerity.

Turning to the consumption tax issue, which you cited specifically, we have been enforcing the consumption tax system since April last year. However, when advice from the public and the opinion surveys results are taken into consideration, and when I put together what I personally heard from people at various gatherings, consumers have concrete proposals with regard to the current system and mechanism. People point out that assessing taxes on areas having to do with human dignity, for example, is questionable. Both the government and the ruling party frankly search their heart on that matter. Taxes should be exempt on areas related to births and funerals.

We are putting so much emphasis on the housing problem. We are increasing the number of housing units in urban areas, giving extra premiums on housing loans, and working out plans to build 1 million housing units in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area. Therefore, they say it is advisable to exempt consumption taxes on rent. They say it will be better to exempt taxes on education. They also suggest to exclude welfare-related affairs from taxation. In fact, there are various arguments. Foods are made nontaxable in the retail stage and half taxable in the distribution stage. A reviewed plan has been formulated at the lowest possible limit and the LDP—I mean the government—will lay it before the Diet. The opposition should stop calling for only the tax's abolition.

The opposition says that indirect taxes will be needed after abolishing the consumption tax. During the electioneering period they also put forward indirect taxation plans. The media reported during the electioneering period that opposition policymakers were eyeing the ratio between direct and indirect taxes at about 7:3. This means that, of the revenues of roughly 60 trillion yen, indirect taxes will reach about 18 trillion yen. I wonder how they are going to raise this money. I hope they will put forward more detailed and concrete proposals. In my opinion, the idea that indirect taxes should be at the ratio of 7:3 can be a common ground for talk. Therefore, we want to discuss that point in the Diet and thus keep moving forward.

As a matter of fact, as you know, even after the reversal of positions in the upper house between the government and opposition, the epoch-making Basic Land Bill, which defines the concept of land, and the Pension Bill were enacted at the end of serious deliberations by members from both the government and opposition parties. At the forthcoming Diet session we will introduce our reviewed proposal, and I hope that the opposition will understand it. I hope we will be able to move along while discussing it in various ways.

[Secretary] What about a partial coalition or a coalition?

[Kaifu] The election returns were made known only moments ago and I have just been told that we had won a stable majority. As I have just described an overall picture, we want to hold talks with the opposition in the Diet with sincerity. In the course of holding and developing talks, when the circumstances compel us, then a coalition or a partial coalition may possibly become a subject. But I would rather refrain from saying this and that about a hypothetical subject. At the moment I am really pleased that we won a stable majority and I want to express my gratitude to the eligible voters. At the same time, I think that we must be humble and keep talking with the opposition in a proper manner.

[Secretary] This will be my last question. I would like to ask you about foreign affairs issues. We would like to hear your views on the following three points: one concerns measures to handle the Japan-U.S. structural consultations scheduled to open soon; the second on your own visit to the United States; and the third on the basic position on diplomacy in this rapidly changing international situation.

[Kaifu] First, concerning the Japan-U.S. structural consultations, I regard it as an issue of great importance. It just so happened that the timing for the consultations coincided with the elections. However, before we started preparations for the elections I called a meeting of officials of the three ministries and agencies concerned who are in charge of this matter. I asked them to report on issues under the existing situation and on the orientation for settling these problems. At the meeting I also stated my own views that, despite the elections, preparations for settling these problems should be made in a steady way; and that since reports should be submitted in March or April, and since various categories and issues that have to be settled have already been pointed out and discussed, I requested them to go ahead with their preparatory work in a steady way.

After the cabinet meeting held during the election campaign, I called a meeting of the finance, International Trade and Industry, and foreign ministers; informed them that I had been studying the problems as issues of great importance; and requested that they cautiously deal with those categories or issues for which they are responsible, while maintaining good contacts with other ministries and agencies concerned.

However, I would like to point out here that basically the government has made efforts to upgrade the quality of the people's livelihood. For example, concerning the issue of correcting the difference in prices at home and abroad that has been pointed out, the LDP and the government have established a coordination headquarters for the ruling party and the government to handle this issue. I myself serve as the head of this headquarters and we have been trying to settle problems in various categories. Such are the efforts we have been making to improve the quality of the people's livelihood.

And I feel that since we are making such efforts on our own and in a positive way, they will have a favorable influence on the structural consultations. Of course, there are also other problems, such as public works. And I think that while making positive efforts to settle these problems to improve the quality of the people's livelihood, we must also continue our efforts to establish cooperative relations with other nations, while keeping in mind that Japan is a member of the international community.

Nevertheless, as you may know, an announcement was made on 16 February—I think—on the trade balance as seen from the U.S. side. As seen from the Japanese side, our imports from the United States amounted to $10 billion last year as a result of various measures taken to expand domestic needs and promote imports. Of course, we have promoted our exports, too. However, we have made efforts to increase imports by a large margin rather than to increase exports. And according to the U.S. side's announcement, such efforts have resulted in the fact that its trade deficits with Japan, which had amounted to over $50 billion for three consecutive years, had dropped to $49 billion for the first time. We should not be satisfied with this result, and it may still remain to be seen what will be brought about by this result. However, the trade imbalance that has continued for years has clearly dropped to less than $50 billion for the first time.

And I feel that in order to maintain such a tendency, further efforts should be made to expand domestic needs and increase imports so that the relationship of interdependence between our nation and the United States can be further promoted on the basis of mutual understanding. In this connection, we will make such efforts in all fields concerned, and we are now engaged in preparatory work so that we can submit our reports.

As for my visit to the United States, it was brought up at the debate held among the top leaders of various parties. I think when the time comes I will pay a visit when it is most convenient to both sides, and directly talk with President Bush. And since it has been so arranged that President Bush will hold talks with me, I would like to visit the United States as early as possible when it is convenient for both sides. However, since the election has just concluded, and there is the urgent issue of holding Diet sessions, I am not in a position to specify the exact date here and now.

[Secretary] Well, now that I have concluded my questions, please go ahead with your questions one by one.

[Correspondent] In starting a new Kaifu administration, I am sure political reform will be a very important task. My question concerns the selection of personnel to join your administration. For example, many candidates who were asked by the opposition parties to take political responsibility for accepting stocks from the Recruit Co., or who have been held guilty for involvement in the Lockheed incident, have won in the election. In selecting people for the new administration to carry out political reforms, will you attach importance to these facts as a criterion for your selection?

[Kaifu] It is true that some people, as you have just mentioned, won in the election. However, it is also true that the people concerned have accepted purification [senrei] from the eligible voters in their own constituencies in this election. However, as far as the LDP is concerned, as you have correctly pointed out, our party must carry out political reforms. And since the last Diet session adopted only one related bill, the Public Office Election Law, among various bills we had submitted, we are merely standing on the threshold now. In our election campaigning we pointed out that the Diet had adopted this bill, and also announced that the LDP would continue efforts to promote political reforms. And I feel that only by properly continuing political reforms will our party make major achievements, and I will be cautious in making decisions at every stage of my actions.

[Correspondent] Will that be included in your criteria for selecting candidates?

[Kaifu] When it comes to practical issues, I would like to point out that we have not decided on any concrete plans as to when and where we will take what actions. However, I feel that the people concerned must have made serious self-examinations, and I would like to stress my strong position that political reform must be carried out in a perfect way.

[Correspondent] Is it correct to say that those involved in the Recruit scandal will not be included in the next Kaifu cabinet?

[Kaifu] It is rather difficult for me to answer this question right now. However, in forming my cabinet I will take various factors into consideration. For example, as I have just mentioned, this issue will certainly have to do with the consciences [jikaku] of the people concerned, and in order to promote poltical reforms, I think I will have to make decisions based on the party's guidelines for political reforms.

[Correspondent] As for the selection of party executives, do you have the same views?

[Kaifu] Although no concrete plans have been decided on the selection of party executives, I can tell you that the executive will be selected on the basis of promoting party solidarity. Since it was just a little while ago that we learned we had won a stable majority, we will now take another step forward to decide on the selection of cabinet members and party executives. When the time comes for us to make actual decisions, I will make judgments with caution, and when the final decision is made, I will inform you of the decision.

[Correspondent] Reportedly JSP Chairperson Doi has proposed having summit talks with you, President Kaifu. Are you planning to accept her proposal and have talks with the JSP?

[Kaifu] I am ready to have talks with top leaders of other parties whenever it is necessary. In this connection, I will agree to have talks right away whenever a request is made. However, my answer was that I would like to have talks with top leaders of all opposition parties on various occasions, with talks with JSP Chairperson Doi coming first. And therefore, I even had talks with the JCP's top leader last year. And as far as talks among top leaders of various parties are concerned, I think we should have such talks to promote the Diet management. And I think that since we must ask for all other parties' cooperation, beginning with the first major opposition party, I would like to hold talks with all party leaders whenever it is necessary.

[Correspondent] I am sorry but I have a question which concerns something that needs courage to ask. When candidates are elected in the general election, these dietmen will enjoy the people's confidence until the next general election. Am I right?

[Kaifu] Yes.

[Correspondent, continuing] And now that the LDP has so many successful candidates, from the viewpoint of common sense, we can say that the LDP will enjoy the people's confidence until the next general election. However, in the case of the Kaifu administration, I won't say that it is [words indistinct] but can we say that your administration will enjoy the people's confidence only until the end of this year, or until November of the next year?

[Kaifu] What do you mean by that? I feel that I have won the the confidence not only on the basis of the Constitution but also from the viewpoint of the nation's trust [shinrai]. Although the Kaifu cabinet has started from the very bottom, and although we have made both advances and retrogressions, we have finally arrived at this point today. We have engaged in the campaigning under the party's solidarity, and won the people's confidence. Therefore, I feel that I have won the confidence not only from the legal viewpoint but also from the actual viewpoint. Am I wrong in holding such views?

[Correspondent] In that case, you mean you will certainly serve out your term to the full...

[Kaifu, interrupting] As far as I am concerned, ...

[Correspondent continues] Am I right?

[Kaifu] Please go ahead and have such a view in watching my cabinet. I am determined to carry out my tasks with sincerity. It must be for this purpose that everyone is assigned a term. And is it not for this purpose that elections are held? When you ask me such questions as to whether this is true or that is true by focusing your spotlights one-sidedly—from a different angle and from the very beginning—on such issues that are decided by the election system or stipulated in the Consitution, I am at a loss as to how to answer your questions.

[Correspondent] In your party, some people seem to be standing in the waiting circle [waiting for a chance to become prime minister]. I would like to ask about your view on this point.

[Kaifu] Well, all my fellow dietmen have been elected with a dream that someday they may become prime minister of the cabinet. Isn't it true? And there is no doubt that all dietmen are doing their best with such a hope and dream in their minds. And I don't think it is unusual for all dietmen to feel that they themselves are the ones to become prime minister.

And that was the reason why I was selected through last August's election. When my term expired, the party decided that I had done well and I was asked to continue in my post. I always keep this serious fact deep in my heart, that I was selected through the consensus of the party and I am determined to carry out my duties under the party's unity. And I hope you can understand my position.

[Correspondent] You have just mentioned that you learned about your party's winning a stable majority. Would you please describe, in just a few words, how you felt when you heard the news?

[Kaifu] It was certainly good news. The people have favorably recognized our efforts and I appreciate it very much. In a few words, this was frankly how I felt then.

With clenched teeth, we have done our best to win the majority. We wanted to obtain the majority, and, of course, the more the better. It so turned out that the people have indicated their recognition of our efforts by giving us the stable majority. Frankly speaking, we appreciate it very much because the result has inspired us with great confidence.

[Correspondent] I would like to ask you about the personnel issue again. It is observed that within the party, General Secretary Ozawa, who has directed the campaigning, will certainly remain in his post. And as party president, do you plan to hold talks with those influential party elders and consult with them on this issue?

[Kaifu] As you have just pointed out, it is true that the general secretary has made his efforts on the forefront of the election campaigning. It has been decided that our party will take various procedures into account tomorrow. However, I have no information concerning the actual selection right now.

[Correspondent] My question is related to the question that has been just asked. Do you plan to have a large- or a small-scale personnel reshuffle?

[Kaifu] This will be done to keep the party united. There are various factors that have to be taken into account now that the election has concluded. I am not quite sure what you mean by a large-scale or a small-scale reshuffling. However, I think that I will study this issue and make decision while listening to your opinions too.

[Correspondent] Prior to the election, you paid visits to leaders of various factions. Now that the election has concluded, do you plan to invite them to your official residence or visit them again? Would you state your views on this?

[Kaifu] What should I say, before the election we were in a very serious situation. Anyway, I felt it was necessary to have the party united so as to win the election. If the LDP should lose in the election again, it would be the end of the party. Therefore, in my capacity as party president, I called on them, stressed the need to win the election through a united party, and frankly requested their cooperation in this connection. And no matter whether it is good or bad, as papers had published the number of candidates to be selected from different factions, selections were actually made within factions. Therefore, it was necessary to ask cooperation from each faction, and ask for their understanding when some coordination had to be made. That was the reason why I called on them to ask for their cooperation.

However, when you ask me in concrete terms as to whether they will be invited to my official residence or I will call on them again, I cannot answer this question right now because I have not thought about it yet. For this, I would like to ask for your pardon.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, you have just mentioned that those who were involved in the Recruit scandal but who have been elected again have received purification. For example, there are former Prime Minister Nakasone, who has left the party, and former Chief Cabinet Secretary Fujinami. If they should express their intention to return to the party, Mr. Kaifu, in your capacity as party president, will you accept their request?

[Kaifu] During the election campaigning, I think I answered this question on several occasions. As the election results indicate, it is true that they have received purification from eligible voters in their respective constituencies. Since this issue is naturally different from the LDP's decision to carry out political reform, I don't think they should be allowed to return to the party right away just because they have won in the election.

[Secretary] Since the time is up now, we would like to conclude President Kaifu's news conference now. Thank you very much, President Kaifu.

[Kaifu] Thank you very much. I would like to have your cooperation in the future, too.

Nakayama Briefs Media

OW1902141490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1332 GMT 19 Feb 89

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama on Monday said Japan will take resolute measures to ensure the success of the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks with the United States, the third round of which begins in Tokyo on Thursday.

Nakayama also indicated that Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu may visit the U.S. for talks with President George Bush in late April, while Nakayama holds a preparatory meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker as early as March.

Nakayama made the remarks in his first press conference at the Foreign Ministry since the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) emerged victorious in Sunday's general elections for the powerful House of Representatives.

"Our relations with the U.S. are basic to our diplomacy and occupy a place of great importance therein, so bringing the SII talks to a successful conclusion is a task we cannot shrink from," the foreign minister stated.

Nakayama said he will get together as soon as possible with the ministers of finance and international trade and industry to map out Japan's strategy for the talks. He said it is important for Kaifu and Bush to hold discussions not only on pressing issues of the moment, but to discuss "philosophically" the future course of the bilateral relationship into the 21st century. The two countries should tackle problems together in a "global partnership" and find ways of ensuring the future prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region, he said.

On U.S. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney's five-day visit to Japan from Tuesday, Nakayama said the two sides may discuss ways of improving "functional" matters. But he added there would be no basic change in the "overall framework" of defense cooperation between the two countries.

Nakayama acknowledged that Japan's diplomacy has slacked off recently due to preparation for general election, but said Japan is now prepared to actively reengage itself in world affairs. He said that in addition to pursuing its cornerstone relations with the United States, Japan will be devoting special attention to ties with Asian countries under the Kaifu administration.

He drew particular attention to the Cambodian conflict and said Japan will contribute positively to the peace process. Nakayama said Japan must continue to gain acceptance in the international community "as a country which can be trusted."

Statistics on Final Outcome

OW1902055890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0454 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—Following is the final breakdown of polling results, by seat and party, counted in the general election for the House of Representatives, as of 1:30 p.m. [0430 GMT] Monday. (figures in brackets indicate number of women):

Parties	seats won total		incumbent	former	new	seats at dissolution	seats won in 1986
LDP [Liberal Democratic Party]	275	(0)	228	4	43	295	300
JSP [Japan Socialist Party]	136	(7)	64	16	56	83	85
Komeito	45	(1)	34	0	11	54	56
JCP [Japan Communist Party]	16	(2)	10	2	4	26	26
DSP [Democratic Socialist Party]	14	(0)	8	3	3	25	26
USDP [United Social Democratic Party] (Shaminren)	4	(0)	4	0	0	4	4
Progressive Party	1	(0)	1	0	0	1	—
Other							
minor parties	0	(0)	0	0	0	0	6
Independents	21	(2)	4	1	16	7	9
Vacancies	-	-	-	-	-	17	—
Total	512	(12)	353	26	133	512	512

(Note: Now-defunct New Liberal Club won six seats in 1986. The six are counted as among other minor parties.)

Table of Votes Won by Parties

OW1902075190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0707 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—Following is the table of votes won by parties in the general election for the House of Representatives as of 3:30 P.M. Monday.

Parties	number of votes	share (%)	share in 1986
LDP [Liberal Democratic Party]	30,314,381	46.14	49.42
JSP [Japan Socialist Party]	16,024,747	24.39	17.23
Komeito	5,242,059	7.98	9.43
JCP [Japan Communist Party]	5,226,608	7.96	8.79
DSP [Democratic Socialist Party]	3,178,722	4.84	6.45
USDP [United Social Democratic Party]	565,912	0.86	0.83
Progressive Party	281,793	0.43	-
Minor Parties	58,317	0.09	2.04
Independents	4,807,305	7.32	5.81
total	65,699,844	100	100

Table of Strength of Parties

OW1902092790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0841 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—The following table shows the revised strength of political parties in the Diet following the february 18 House of Representatives election. (Figures in brackets indicate seats held at dissolution of the Lower House):

House of Representatives (Lower House)		Parties	House of Councillors (Upper House)
284	(295)	LDP	109
141	(83)	JSP	73
46	(54)	Komeito	20
16	(26)	JCP	14
14	(25)	DSP	10
4	(4)	USDP	-
1	(1)	Progressive Party	-
-	-	Rengo Sangiin	12
-	-	Sangiin Club	5
-	-	Zeikinto	4
6	(7)	Independents	4
-	(17)	vacancies	1
512	(512)	total	252

(Note: the LDP's 284 seats include nine conservative independents who are joining the party, the JSP's 141 include five JSP-backed independents joining it, and Komeito's 46 include one Komeito- supported independent joining it. The remaining six independents are all pro-LDP).

Final Election Turnout Figures

OW1802174790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1726 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 [date as received] KYODO—The turnout of voters in Sundays's general election for the House of Representatives stood at 73.31 percent, the Home Affairs Ministry said.

The figure was 8 points higher than the House of Councillors election in July last year and compared with that of 71.40 percent in the dual election for both houses of the Diet in 1986 and 74.57 percent in the dual election in 1980. The highest turnout by prefecture was Shimane with 86.45 percent and the lowest was Osaka with 65.06 percent.

Special Diet Session Due

OW1902014690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0133 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—The government plans to convene the Diet into a special session on or around February 27 to elect the prime minister, a government source said Monday.

The most likely date is February 27 but the Diet, with the newly elected lower house, could be summoned into session on February 26, the source said.

By law, the government has to summon the Diet into a special session to elect the prime minister within a month after a general election.

Politicians Involved in Recruit Win

OW1802173690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1722 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 [date as received] KYODO—Eleven politicals implicated in the Recruit shares-for-favors scandal were reelected to the Diet in Sunday's election but with fewer votes than in the last poll. In the election, some 20 scandal-tainted candidates were seeking reelection to the House of Representatives.

Among the successful candidates were former Prime Ministers Yasuhiro Nakasone and Noboru Takeshita, former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe and former Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

The former chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party, Saburo Tsukamoto, and a member of the Japan Socialist Party, Takumi Ueda, were also reelected, as was former Chief Cabinet Secretary Takao Fujinami, who is on trial for allegedly taking bribes from the information conglomerate Recruit Co. But another Recruit defendant, Kunio Takaishi, a former vice education minister, failed to win his first parliamentary seat.

When his reelection became certain Sunday night, Nakasone, 71, told supporters before his campaign office in Takasaki, Gunma Prefecture, that he was "purified" by the election. The former prime minister quit the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) last May after criticism for being connected with the scandal.

Although Nakasone won his 17th consecutive Lower House seat, the number of votes he gained was 86,000, substantially down from 115,000 in the previous election. He also dropped his rank among successful candidates in the four-seat constituency from second to third.

Fujinami, the former government spokesman for Nakasone, expressed gratitude to his supporters in his campaign office in Ise, Mie Prefecture, saying he had had a severe test both before and during the election campaign. Since his indictment last May, Fujinami had reportedly visited a total of 20,000 supporters' homes in the prefecture to apologize for his involvement in the Recruit scandal.

Kunio Takaishi, 59, a former top bureaucrat, failed to "purify" himself in the election. Nine candidates were running against Takaishi for the five-seat No. 3 constituency in Fukuoka Prefecture.

Takaishi and Fujinami were both indicted for allegedly accepting 10,000 prelisted shares of Recruit's real estate arm, Recruit Cosmos, which brough them huge profits after the shares were listed on the open market in October 1986. Meanwhile, Takeshita, Abe and Koichi Kato, former defense minister, all topped the list in their electoral districts, as in the previous election.

Sosuke Uno Reelected

OW1802130090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1245 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 18 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Sosuke Uno, who stepped down over his involvement in a sex scandal and his party's defeat in the House of Councillors election last year, was reelected in Sunday's general election. Uno, 67, was embroiled in a scandal involving allegations that he paid a geisha for sex immediately after he took office in June last year.

He was in office only two months after succeeding his predecessor Noboru Takeshita in June last year. Takeshita had resigned over his connection in the Recruit influence-buying scandal. Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu replaced Uno as premier in August.

Uno was reelected in his Shiga prefectural constituency in central Japan, to serve his 11th term in the Diet.

Nakasone Declares Slate Clean

OW1802151790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1451 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 18 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone declared the controversy surrounding his links to political corruption behind him Sunday, saying his victory in the general election signaled the people's judgment. Nakasone clinched his 17th straight election victory since first winning his lower house seat in Gunma Prefecture in 1947, fighting off opposition attacks on his links to the Recruit stock scandal with a heavy campaign schedule.

Describing it as an "election of purification," Nakasone had touted his past record and international stature to voters, beginning groundwork for his victory as early as last summer. The backing of four opposition parties and the nation's largest labor grouping proved insufficient for late entry Kenichi Shiraishi, who failed to unseat Nakasone or gain one of the district's four seats. But fellow opposition candidate and Japan Socialist Party [JSP] Secretary General Tsuruo Yamaguchi retained his seat with the highest vote total.

Conservatives Yasuo Fukuda, son of a former prime minister, and Keizo Obuchi secured the remaining seats despite opposition attacks on the ruling party, citing political corruption, the unpopular consumption tax, and agricultural reforms.

Nakasone, who resigned from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party last summer over the Recruit scandal, said the victory had "put an end" to the dark clouds hanging over his political ethics. Reiterating denials of any wrongdoing, Nakasone said the vote reflected the "people's judgment" in the face of opposition and media attacks. "The people of Gunma did well," he said, despite his being the "at the center of (opposition) fire."

Surrounded by cheering supporters in his hometown of Takasaki, Nakasone pledged to "fight for the nation," in a short, subdued victory statement. The 71-year-old Nakasone used patriotic themes throughout his campaign, forecasting chaos in the event of a victory by the JSP-led opposition alliance. Some 80 percent of district voters said they supported Nakasone "to protect free society," according to a survey by the Tokyo Broadcasting System television station.

In addition to the Recruit scandal, Nakasone also faced criticism over his links to the unpopular consumption tax, having proposed a similar sales tax during his term as prime minister. But numerous appearances before and during the actual election campaign ensured the former prime minister a solid support base.

Nakasone's victory margin this time surpassed that of the 1976 contest, when he squeezed into the fourth place seat despite a 40 percent drop in support in the aftermath of the Lockheed influence-buying scandal. Many voters said a loss by Nakasone would cast "shame" on the prefecture.

The election victory opens the way for Nakasone's possible reentry into the ranks of the LDP. Preelection statements by party officials indicated it would be up to individual Recruit-tainted candidates to decide whether to seek readmittance if they won.

The majority of conservative politicians implicated in the unethical stock transactions clinched victories in the nationwide vote.

2d-Generation Politicians Elected

OW1802164790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1631 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 [date as received] KYODO—A total of 20 new parliamentarians, including 12 ruling Liberal Democratic Party and five Japan Socialist Party members, succeeded their fathers or fathers-in-law to the House of Representatives in Sunday's election. According to a KYODO NEWS SERVICE survey, 43 second-generation candidates ran in the election for the 512-seat lower house.

Among successful newcomers are Shunichi Suzuki, 36, eldest son of former Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki and Yasuo Fukuda, 53, eldest son of former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda. In the No. 3 constituency of Gunma Prefecture, Yasuo Fukuda won his seat along with former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and former Chief Cabinet Secretary Keizo Obuchi.

In his son's office in Takasaki, Gunma Prefecture, former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda asked his supporters for further endorsement to enable Yasuo to become a powerful politician. In an election office in Morioka, Iwate Prefecture, former Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki, appearing with his son Shunichi, told well-wishers that he is convinced his son will become a trustworthy politician.

Despite the criticism of nepotism in Japanese politics, the number of second-generation politicians have been increasing, especially within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Notable Figures Lose Seats

OW1802171390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1631 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 [date as received] KYODO—Transport Minister Takami Eto lost his seat in the House of Representatives in Sunday's general election. Eto, who belongs to the faction led by former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, assumed the post when Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu formed his cabinet last August. He was running in the No. 1 constituency in Miyazaki Prefecture, southern Japan, in a bid to serve an eighth term in parliament. Eto, 64, served as construction minister in the Nakasone cabinet.

Sadanori Yamanaka, former chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's [LDP] research commission on the tax system, also lost his seat. Yamanaka, a former Defense Agency chief and international trade and industry minister, was an architect of the government's consumption tax, introduced last April.

The 3 percent tax was regarded as one of main causes of the LDP's historic defeat in the election for the House of Councillors in July last year. Yamanaka was running in the No. 3 constituency in Kagoshima Prefecture for a 14th term in parliament.

Former Defense Agency Chief Joji Omura, former Labor Minister Mitsuo Horiuchi, and former Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Hisao Horinouchi also failed to retain their seats in the Diet.

Horinouchi made controversial remarks last July to the effect that women are useless in politics and should stay at home. He directed his remarks at Japan Socialist Party Chairwoman Takako Doi, saying she is single and childless and that the post of premier is beyond her capacity.

Another former Defense Agency chief and former labor minister, Raizo Matsuno, also lost his seat. Matsuno, 73, former chairman of the LDP's General Council, was running in the No. 1 constituency in Kumamoto Prefecture.

Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Takao Fujimoto also lost his seat. He replaced Setsu Shiga, who assumed the post of director general of the Environment Agency, on August 25, and was running in the No. 1 constituency in Kagawa Prefecture for a ninth term in the Diet.

Former Construction Minister Kosei Amano also failed to retain his seat.

Opposition Leaders Comment

OW1802163090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1613 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 [date as received] KYODO—Japan Socialist Party Secretary General Tsuruo Yamaguchi vowed Sunday to cooperate with the three other main non-communist opposition parties to fight for the abolition of the controversial 3 percent consumption tax.

Yamaguchi, upon learning of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) certain retention of power in Sunday's House of Representatives election, said the four opposition forces would submit a bill calling for the abolition of the tax even if the LDP retained comfortable majority in the Lower House.

Yuichi Ichikawa, secretary general of Komeito, echoed Yamaguchi's determination to kill the levy.

Takashi Yonezawa, secretary general of the Democratic Socialist Party, warned of confusion in the Diet if the LDP tried to force through its review bill on the tax which he said was introduced by the ruling party in violation of an earlier election pledge.

Communist Party Secretary General Mitsuhiro Kaneko said the tax must be abolished since it would not pass the House of Councillors where the opposition holds a majority.

Ichikawa and Kaneko said those LDP politicians connected with the Recruit bribery scandal who had been reelected would not be considered "purified."

Yamaguchi said the opposition had made great efforts to topple the LDP but they were still not sufficient, citing the opposition failure to crack LDP links to powerful corporations.

Satsuki Eda, leader of the United Social Democratic Party, blamed the lack of cooperation among the opposition parties as the biggest cause of their predicted defeat.

JSP [Japan Socialist Party] Chairwoman Takako Doi told reporters that she was very anxious that Komeito, the DSP [Democratic Socialist Party] and the USDP [United Social Democratic Party] would lose seats in the lower house. She said all opposition parties needed seats so as to consolidate that opposition camp against the LDP in the post-election parliamentary deliberations.

Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida said parliament might "come to a standstill because opposition parties have won a majority in the upper house despite defeat in the lower house election."

Bills do not become law, except for annual budgets and treaties, unless they are passed in both houses of parliament.

Tetsuzo Fuwa, Presidium chairman of the JCP [Japan Communist Party], reviewed the party's dwindling seats in the lower house and said that voters had regarded Japanese Communists as similar to those in East European communist countries where one-party rule and planned economies have recently been scrapped.

The JCP reiterated that East European countries are Stalinist-style bureaucratic states which, it said, the Japanese Communists do not support.

JSP's Doi Urges Cooperation

OW1902065790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0547 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—Takako Doi, chairwoman of the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), urged three of Japan's moderate opposition parties to step up their cooperation with the JSP during the upcoming special parliamentary session. Opposition parties, however, indicated they might not heed the call.

Doi made her plea after the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) retained a comfortable majority in Sunday's House of Representatives election. Doi, the leader of Japan's No. 1 opposition party, proposed a working-level meeting among secretaries general of the JSP, Komeito, the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) and the United Social Democratic Party (USDP). Doi said such a meeting should be held before the opening of the special Diet session set for the end of February.

Koshiro Ishida, chairman of the Komeito, said his party is prudent of the noncommunist coalition government concept because the lower house election has created a new mix of power among the ruling and opposition parties.

USDP Chairman Satsuki Eda said he wants to confer with the JSP and the DSP about the possibility of setting up a new party to merge the three opposition groups. The DSP was formed in 1960 and the USDP in 1978 by groups which had split from the JSP due to differences over the ideology of socialism and social democracy.

Takashi Yonezawa, secretary general of the DSP, also said there no longer is a need to form a noncommunist coalition government because the LDP won a majority in the Lower House. Doi said she regrets the party could not force the LDP to lose its majority so that a noncommunist government could be formed. But she said the JSP will make every effort to scrap the 3 percent consumption tax, which she said was promised to voters by the JSP during the election campaign. Doi said the JSP could talk with the LDP if the LDP freezes the consumption tax with the intention of eventually scrapping it.

Tetsuzo Fuwa, Presidium chairman of the Japan Communist Party [JCP], said he regrets the communist setback in the election. He said the JCP faces a tough challenge in the Diet.

Fuwa, however, said the party's leadership does not blame itself for defeat. He said some of it was attributable to the collapse of Eastern European communist countries. Fuwa also said his party does not think that the reelection of LDP politicians linked to the Recruit stock scandal has purified them.

Campaign Supervisors Comment

OW1902010790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0046 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] is expected to take its tally to over 271 seats for a stable majority in the House of Representatives and the Japan Socialist Party [JSP] to rise to 140 seats when counting in the remaining 81 seats is completed Monday, according to LDP and JSP analysts. Of the seats counted for the 512-member lower house on Sunday evening, the LDP had 240 and the JSP 114.

An LDP election campaign supervisor, Kishiro Nakamura, said in a television interview Monday morning that the party expects to win at least another 30 seats Monday to assure it of a stable majority of more than 271. He said the returns on Sunday show that "the LDP has won wide understanding" from the voters. "So today we expect a certain degree of seat numbers," said Nakamura, who retained his seat in Ibaraki Prefecture. The LDP had 295 seats at the time of the lower house dissolution.

He said if LDP can get 30 seats Monday, it can expect a stable majority as it proceeds with necessary measures to let nine conservative independents join the party.

The biggest opposition JSP, which won 117 seats, including affiliated independents, in Sunday night's count, hopes to boost the total to over 140 seats, party campaign official Kanju Sato said. Sato said his party hopes to get at least 23 seats on Monday, when counting takes place in the heavily populated constituencies of Tokyo, Kanagawa, and Saitama Prefectures. The JSP held 83 seats when the lower house was dissolved.

Sato said the returns Sunday show "women voters nationwide supported our growth, so we can further expect 'women power' today as in Tokyo, the women's turnout is some 3 percent higher than that of men." Sato retained his own seat Sunday.

Tadao Miki, an election campaign organizer for Komeito, which won 31 seats Sunday, said he regrets the party failed to make gains despite a high voter turnout of 73.31 percent. Miki said Komeito expects 15 of 18 candidates whose votes are being counted Monday to win seats. Komeito had 54 seats at the time of dissolution.

The Japan Communist Party's [JCP] election supervisor Kozaburo Ueda said supporters seem to have turned instead to the JSP in this election and anticommunism attacks by other parties also affected the JCP's performance. It won only 13 of the seats counted Sunday.

Admitting the JCP support rate fell from previous elections, Ueda said the party, which held 26 seats when the house was dissolved, expects to raise its tally to 20 seats Monday, but it will continue to have a tough fight.

The Democratic Socialist Party [DSP], which also fared poorly Sunday, winning only 12 seats, expects another six seats Monday. It held 26 seats at the dissolution.

The DSP's Tetsuya Tabuchi said there were a number of runners-up this time who narrowly lost their seats. "The party failed to convey its uniqueness to voters amid the LDP-JSP confrontation," he said.

Business Leaders Welcome Results

OW1802165890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1637 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 [date as received] KYODO—Japanese business leaders greeted with a sigh of relief the results of the Diet election held Sunday, in which the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] was seen certain to secure a stable majority of at least 271 seats in the 512-seat House of Representatives. The heads of major industry organizations viewed the LDP's strong showing as the nation's mandate for continued political and economic stability under the current system with the long-dominant ruling party remaining at the helm.

Eishiro Saito, chairman of the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) said: "I can breathe a little easier now that political stability is secured at least for the time being." He said the LDP's victory "is a result of the nation's choice for political stability, and a manifestation of their expectations toward the LDP."

Rokuro Ishikawa, president of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said: "Basically, the outcome of the election reflects the people's choice of a free-market economy and democracy, as well as their intention to avoid political confusion."

The LDP had won 240 seats as of 1:00 a.m. [1600 GMT 18 February] Monday, while the Japan Socialist Party, the largest opposition party, had secured 114 seats. The election had been considered a crossroads for Japanese politics after the ruling party lost its majority in the election for the less powerful House of Councillors last July. Some analysts had predicted that the LDP might come close to losing control in the lower house as well.

The business leaders also perceived the election results as a signal that Japanese consumers have now accepted the controversial consumption tax introduced last April, which was the principal focus of interest in the election debate.

Takashi Ishihara, president of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives, said: "People have come to think about the tax in a more realistic manner than they were at the time of the upper house elections, when emotional antipathy toward it was quite strong."

"The outcome shows that the LDP's taxation policy including its stance toward the consumption tax has been accepted by the people," said Ishikawa.

Kuniji Miyazaki, president of the Federation of Bankers Associations of Japan, said: "The understanding about the consumption tax has been deepened among the people as time has elapsed."

Eiji Suzuki, president of the Japan Federation of Employers Association, pointed out the "disarray in the opposition camp about their coalition government and radical political changes in Eastern Europe" as the factors that provided a boost to the LDP's showing in the election. But business kingpins warned the LDP against becoming complacent about the election results.

The Japan Socialist Party's large gains "displayed the people's strong criticism about the LDP's politics," Suzuki said. He added: "It is imperative for the ruling party to carry out political reforms with a firm determination to recover the people's trust in politics."

Saito said: "I hope the LDP lose no time in reforming itself, and grapples in a bold way with such problems as political reforms, improvement of relations with other countries, and land reform to realize a truly affluent society."

Further From Business Leaders

OW1902134790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0947 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—Japan's business leaders Monday welcomed the results of Sunday's general election, calling them a popular mandate for liberal economy.

Eishiro Saito, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), praised the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's victory, saying it reflected people's judgment that Japan should not alter the framework of its free economy. But Saito told reporters the LDP should not abuse its power and urged it to take measures to achieve political reforms and resolve pending issues. "I hope (the LDP) will cooperate with opposition parties in a modest manner to prevent criticism of power politics," he said.

Takuji Matsuzawa, vice chairman of Keidanren, joined Saito in welcoming the LDP's victory, describing it as a result of the nation's hope for political stability. Matsuzawa, like Saito, called on the LDP to join hands with the opposition in tackling domestic and external problems facing Japan.

How to achieve structural reforms that may cause harm to the people is a major task for the governing and opposition parties, he said.

With trade talks between Japan and the United States set for this week, business leaders also expressed hope that the LDP will take measures to ease regulations, widening U.S. access to Japan's market.

"It's the most serious concern for me right now that the trade dispute between Japan and the U.S. will get worse," said Isao Yonekura, president of C. Itoh and Co., a leading trading house. Yonekura said the government should take drastic action to increase transparency in Japan's market and ease regulations further while striving to increase the living standards of the Japanese people.

"On the domestic front, the government should change its policy to one oriented to consumers and the people's living," he added. Business leaders generally said the LDP's victory signifies public acceptance of the new tax, which went into effect last April. The controversial consumption tax came under extreme criticism from the opposition during the election campaign. But Sueaki Takaoka, chairman of the Japan Chain Stores Association, urged a review of the 3 percent tax, which is charged on almost all goods and services.

"The ruling and opposition parties should review the consumption tax to achieve fair and transparent taxation from an economic viewpoint, not from a political viewpoint," he said.

Opposition parties said Sunday they intend to submit a bill calling for abolition of the new tax, which political analysts said could stall Diet business because the opposition holds a majority in the upper house.

Takashi Ishihara, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), also welcomed the LDP's victory, saying that it illustrated political stability in Japan.

"It's a good thing that the election results impressed (people) in and outside Japan and underscored political stability in Japan," he said at a press conference. Ishihara warned, however, the LDP could lose the next election if it does not carry out political reforms through Diet debates.

"It is high time now that the LDP launched political reforms to meet public demands. If they don't take action in earnest, it will be difficult for them to see the same results in the next election," he said.

On the Japan Socialist Party's gains in support, Ishihara said they appear to be a first step toward a two-party political system in Japan, adding that he sees little chance that middle-of-the-road parties will gain power in the future.

Referring to a trade dispute between Japan and the United States, Ishihara urged the government to take action in areas where it can. "Among U.S. requests, there are things Japan can do. (The government) should do sincerely what it can do," he said.

Foreign Businesses Hail Stability

OW1902175790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1055 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—Foreign business interests in Japan welcomed on Monday the victory of the Liberal Democratic Party in House of Representatives election and urged the administration of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to move forward with confidence in resolving trade issues overseas.

William Franklin, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ), said trade talks between Japan and the U.S. had been put on hold while the Japanese leaders were preoccupied with the critical Lower House election. "But, with this positive affirmation of their leadership, the LDP can now focus attention on trade issues," said Franklin.

Election analysts had characterized Sunday's poll as a critical challenge to the LDP's 35-year dominance of the Japanese political scene, but the ruling Liberal Democrats returned with a solid majority in the 512-seat lower house. Franklin hailed the Japanese voters' "high priority on stability" at a time when Japan-U.S. relations are being challenged.

"Trade issues overshadow many of the good parts of the (Japan-U.S.) relationship and there could be a real danger that they could undermine the entire relationship if these issues are not resolved," said Franklin. He urged that Japan and the U.S. seek a "win-win solution" in resolving these "troublesome problems."

A European Community (EC) delegation source in Tokyo also called upon the new Japanese Government to move forward, saying "a great deal has to be done within the fields of agriculture, financial services, and competitive trade practices" between Japan and the 12-nation EC. But the EC representative, who requested anonymity, said the general election results gave no "new imperative" for the LDP to move forward. But he added Kaifu gives the government enough popularity to initiate some positive changes. He dismissed the strong showing of the Japan Socialist Party as a reaction against the consumption tax rather than a reflection of voters' feelings on international issues."

JSP candidates, appealing to voter sentiment to abolish the 3 percent consumption tax, captured 141 lower house seats—up from 85 in the 1986 election Saying that the JSP may have introduced a stronger polarity into Japanese politics, the EC source cautioned "the Japanese Government should not fear that it is being held hostage" by voter expectations to slow down the process of liberalization.

"The overall problem is not the consumption tax," the EC source said, adding, "it is the political dimensions of Japan's presence on everyone else's markets (abroad)."

Franklin, who did not comment on the consumption tax or the opposition's showing, said while he sees progress in trade talks between Japan and the U.S., a JSP victory or a coalition government may have forced "the whole process to be postponed until later."

The EC source said he sees the scheduled Japan-EC ministerial meeting set for this spring as an opportunity for intense discussions of trade issues, as well as a chance to discuss broad political and cultural concerns. Franklin said he foresees a continued good working relationship between the ACCJ and Japanese business circles.

Six Arrested for Election Violations

OW1802140090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1337 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 18 KYODO—Police [arrested] six people for election law violations in Tokyo immediately after voting ended in Sunday's general elections, the Metropolitan Police Department reported. In raids launched soon after voting in the House of Representatives elections ended at 6 p.m., police searched offices of candidates and questioned some 50 campaign workers in a total of 26 cases of suspected election violations, the authorities said.

Twelve of the searches were for evidence of suspected vote-buying and the 14 others concerned illegal distribution of documents, police said. Five campaign workers were arrested for obstructing electioneering by candidates other than those they supported, and another for fraudulent voting, investigators said.

They said 4,500 warnings had been issued against potential violations of the Public Office Election Law by Sunday noon. The figure was a 2.5-fold increase over that in the previous poll in 1986 when dual elections were held for both houses of the Diet.

Of the total warnings, 4,353 involved illegal handling of documents such as putting up of posters at sites where they are not allowed, and 54 for making speeches without the necessary notification. The moves reflect fierce rivalry in the House of Representatives election, in which a total 953 candidates vied for 512 seats of the powerful lower chamber of the Diet.

The violators included a candidate of a religious group who wore a mask resembling the group's founder during his campaign, and a supporter who drove off in a car belonging to a rival candidate, police said.

430 Face Charges for 'Irregularities'

OW1802180590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1757 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo Feb. 19 [date as received] KYODO—Some 430 campaign workers face possible arrest on suspicion of a variety of irregularities in Sunday's general elections in a full nationwide crackdown to be launched Monday, authorities said.

In raids that started immediately after voting in the House of Representatives election ended at 6 p.m., police searched for evidence in 27 places an arrested three workers for vote-buying and other election law violations they said. This brought the total number of people arrested nationwide by Sunday to 18, they added.

The number of arrests could rise to some 430 when 2,900 suspected violators are questioned in 450 cases of apparent irregularities by Monday morning, the National Police Agency (NPA) said.

Among the three taken into police custody for further questioning on vote-buying charges Sunday were a campaign worker for Torao Tokuda, an independent candidate who ran in the election from Amami Island group constituency of Kagoshima Prefecture, and a campaigner for Kazuo Eguchi, a conservative candidate from No. 1 constituency of Chiba, it said.

A total 4,500 warnings were issued during the 15-day official campaign period against potential violations of the Public Office Election Law, police said. The figure represented a 2.5-fold increase over that in the 1986 dual elections for both houses of the Diet.

Minister Criticizes TV Coverage

OW2002100290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0726 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 20 KYODO—Japan's Minister of Post and Telecommunications Tuesday criticized the heated rivalry among television networks to televise up-to-the-minute reports of Sunday's general election returns.

Minister Senpachi Oishi, a former NHK broadcaster, said it was nonsense for television stations to start broadcasting news flashes on returns as early as 7:30 P.M. Sunday, when not even campaign workers or supporters were gathered at candidates' election offices. The polls closed at 6 P.M. and ballot-counting by local election officials began at 7 P.M. Sunday.

Several Tokyo-based television networks, including semi-public NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corp.), early in the evening began reporting quick but erroneous projections on candidates' chances for election, he said.

NHK broadcast two false flahes in Kagoshima and Fukushima Prefecture. Other Tokyo commercial stations also televised reports that indicated some candidates would win when, in fact, they lost after more votes were counted.

Television coverage on the ballot-counting heated up Sunday and Monday as commercial stations pursued intensive reporting that, in part, preempted commercials. NHK, which does not broadcast commercials, also broadcast hours of special poll coverage.

An NHK spokesman said the errors resulted from poor judgement by reporters posted at balloting stations, where there was much confusion. The spokesman apologized for the mistakes during the election program but insisted the false reports did not result from rivalry among networks.

Oishi, however, said more careful and calm reporting would have prevented the mistakes. "It's natural they produce mistakes by doing such reporting," Oishi said. Local television stations also apologized Wednesday for erroneous news flashes on Sunday's balloting.

Kagoshima Broadcasting Corporation, Minaminihon Broadcasting Company and Kagoshima Television Station said in a joint apology printed in a local paper Wednesday they caused problems for viewers and candidates.

Two of the stations reported that the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's candidate, former minister of international trade and industry, Sadanori Yamanaka, was very likely to win a seat. In fact, Yamanaka lost as a runner-up by 28 votes.

Analysts Say Voters 'Rejected' Abrupt Change

OW1802191390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1847 GMT 18 Feb 90

[By Joecelyn Ford]

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 [date as received] KYODO—Japanese voters appeared to have rejected any abrupt political changes in Sunday's election, with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] almost assured of a comfortable majority in the House of Representatives after most of the vote counting was completed early Monday. But analysts said the strong showing by the Japan Socialist Party [JSP], the leading opposition party, is a sign that voters are tired of economic policies that over the past 40 years have favored manufacturers at the expense of consumers.

Traditional voting trends that favor conservative politicians with their extensive personal networks, as well as misgivings over the leadership capabilities of opposition parties, prevented a repeat of the historic opposition upset in last summer's House of Councillors elections, analysts said. The four major opposition parties went into the election still far apart over a platform for a coalition government after nearly a year of discussions.

Early projections showed the LDP heading for 280 seats in the 512-seat lower house of the Diet, or parliament, down from 295 at the dissolution. The JSP was likely to win 130 seats, up from 85. Other opposition parties were expected to suffer setbacks. With counting in Tokyo and its neighboring prefectures of Kanagawa and Saitama staring at 8 AM Monday, final tallies were due Monday afternoon.

"Japan voted for gradual change. I think this is a tradition," said Ikuo Kabashima, associate professor of politics at Tsukuba University. "Last summer's House of Councillors election was very special," said Kabashima, "because issues such as the consumption tax and Recruit influence-peddling scandal were a central focus." At issue in this election were more fundamental political principles, said political analyst Tetsuro Murobushi.

"The fury over the consumption tax is symbolic of the unfair tax system. It is symbolic of the system that gives precedence to manufacturers and not consumers," he said. "Japanese want a practical alternative to the LDP, but they can't get there in one step," said Murobushi. The Socialists, with only a third of the seats of the LDP before the polls, did not field enough candidates to win a majority.

Nevertheless, the opposition-dominated upper house guarantees a more dynamic political process, as the LDP, which has a reputation for backroom politicking, is forced to gain opposition cooperation in order to pass legislation through both houses. The lower house has sole discretion to pass the budget and approve treaties with foreign countries. It also has the final say in electing the prime minister.

Reelection of 11 parliamentarians implicated in the Recruit scandal showed some traditional voting mores at work.

"It's the old pattern," said Prof. Sumiko Iwao, a social psycholgist at Keio University in Tokyo. "Voters think that corruption is a terrible thing, but that it can't be helped." But at least some voters hoped their vote for the LDP would be a vote for political change.

"I'm not happy about the consumption tax and I think politics should be more open," said one LDP supporter in central Tokyo. The 47-year-old restauranteur declined to give her name, citing embarrassment over her former apathy which led her to vote in accord with her husband's wishes.

"This time for the first time I made up my own mind on who to vote for, and I decided to give the LDP one more chance. But I think politics has to change so we can clearly see how taxes are being used," she said.

Papers Say Elections Show People Favor Status Quo

OW1902033190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0256 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—Japan's four national daily newspapers said Monday in editorials that the Japanese people, by failing to give opposition parties the chance to form a coalition government, don't want political change.

The papers, however, said some change is important, and urged the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] government to cooperate through dialogue with opposition parties to lead Japan through the coming decade of international challenges.

The ASAHI SHIMBUN said the opposition lost the chance to gain political power following last year's upper house election because Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP] neglected deliberation with the No. 1 opposition Japan Socialist Party [JSP].

Japan's largest-circulation daily, the YOMIURI SHIMBUN, urged the LDP to initiate political reform.

Another daily, the MAINICHI SHIMBUN, criticized the LDP for raising large amounts of campaign donations from corporate interests.

Both NIHON KEIZAI, the nation's biggest economic daily, and ASAHI attributed the LDP's victory to rivalry between the election committees of individual candidates rather than between political parties.

NIHON KEIZAI said the reelection of many politicians implicated in the Recruit stock-for-favors scandal is evidence of the election committee's power in the general election.

All four dailies stressed the need to form a new political system that will insure more meaningful dialogue and negotiation between the LDP and opposition parties.

Externally, the country's major ally, the United States, is set to put powerful pressure on the government to open Japan's market to imports. Economic officials of the two countries are scheduled to resume talks on structural impediments to trade on Thursday.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney is due to arrive on Tuesday and is expected to press the Japanese Government to bear more of the cost of maintaining U.S. troops in Japan.

The LDP, assured of achieving a stable majority of 271, which will enable it to name the chairmen and a majority of members in all the lower house's standing committees, continued its advance as vote counting began in Tokyo, Kanagawa, and Saitama Prefectures Monday morning.

Of the 512 lower house seats, 81 were allotted to the three populous prefectures.

The LDP, which won 240 of the other 431 seats counted Sunday night, added 31 seats to 271, as of 11.30 A.M.

The JSP, headed by the first woman to lead a major Japanese party, Takako Doi, had captured 114 seats Sunday night, and added another 20 seats to take its tally to 134.

In sharp contrast with the two biggest parties, Komeito, the Japan Communist Party [JCP], and the Democratic Socialist Party all saw their support slump.

As of 11:30 A.M. Monday, the second-largest opposition party, Komeito, had won 37 seats, the JCP 15, and the DSP 13. A minor conservative opposition party, the Progressive Party, won one seat, while 20 independents gained seats.

LDP Victory Brings New Challenges for Diplomacy

OW1902184390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1214 GMT 19 Feb 90

[By Tim Johnson]

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—The electoral victory of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in Sunday's general election has Foreign Ministry officials sighing with relief now that continuity in Japan's foreign policy appears to have been assured into the 1990s. But due to the rapid unfolding of events on the international scene, Japan is being forced to adapt itself to a new set of economic, political and strategic circumstances, which have yet to go through their full metamorphosis.

Foreign Ministry bureaucrats and their LDP keepers are anxious to stake out a secure place for Japan in the new world order now they have received a new mandate from the voters. Despite the LDP's triumph at the polls, however, observers say the substantial gains made by the Japan Socialist Party (JSP) in the House of Representatives poll have ushered in a new element into the policy-making process.

Diet deliberations over diplomacy, foreign aid, and security issues are likely to be taken more seriously now by the government, considering that the opposition has also secured control over the less powerful House of Councillors.

Foremost on the diplomatic agenda of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's second administration will be grappling with a major image problem in the United States, stemming from protracted trade frictions and chronic trade surpluses.

Japan faces gnawing resentment in the U.S. over its allegedly closed markets, its increasing financial leverage, its domination of key high-technology industries and its high-profile investments. Observers say the focus of the Japan-U.S. relationships is shifting from strategic alliance to economic rivalry.

This negative reaction coincides with a perception among Americans of a reduced Soviet threat and a growing realization that economic power will be more crucial in the future than military power.

Kaifu will likely visit the U.S. as soon as possible for talks with President George Bush, in which he will attempt to convince his host of Japan's benign intentions. But Kaifu, who billed his last trip to Washington in September as an attempt to put U.S. fears to rest by emphasizing the two countries' "global partnership," will be hard-pressed this time to secure America's "understanding," as relations have continued to slide.

Washington is reportedly about to unleash a barrage of pent-up frustrations over Japanese trade practices and structural deficiencies, which have been swallowed in recent weeks out of consideration for the LDP's pre-election platform. While Kaifu's new administration is anxious to bring tensions to a "soft landing," it faces domestic pressure to be more assertive with the U.S. in keeping with its economic power.

With the opposition's increased strength in the Diet, the government is being called on to say "no" when necessary, such as in response to U.S. attempts to pry open Japan's rice market. Japan's other foreign policy priority regards the Soviet Union, which continues to occupy four Japanese-claimed islands seized at the end of World War II.

Amid a succession of previously unimaginable Soviet initiatives at home and abroad, Japan hopes that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will bring along a compromise solution on the territorial problem when he visits Tokyo early this spring.

While seeking to use Japan's economic might to Soviet advantage at this crucial stage in the reform process, Shevardnadze will be attempting to lay the groundwork for a "substantive" visit to Tokyo by President Mikhail Gorbachev in 1992, diplomatic observers say.

As Soviet calls for confidence-building measures in the Asia-Pacific gain in credibility, Japan will likely come under increasing pressure to justify its military buildup both domestically and to its neighbors in Asia.

Meanwhile, the U.S. is expected to call on Japan to assume a fair share of the mutual defense burden during Defense Secretary Dick Cheney's five-day visit in Japan beginning Tuesday.

Kaifu, who has not visited Asia, is soon expected to personally convey Japan's commmitment to the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which make up the second pillar of Japan's foreign policy.

Japan will also be attempting to assume a larger role in the Cambodian peace process in adherence to the government's proclaimed goal of "a Japan which contributes to the world."

Relations with South Korea, which have also been on the back-burner, will be given a new impetus when President No tae-u comes here, possibly in May.

While Japan's relations with China are unlikely to recover to their former level for some time to come, the current stalemate will end as soon as Japan releases its third yen loan package, worth some 81 billion yen.

In Europe, Japan is expected to continue its attempts to secure a foothold in the integrated market of the European Community (EC) after 1992 and to avert a situation in which the U.S. and the EC team up against Japanese economic power. The course of Japan's European diplomacy was set when Kaifu visited the region last month and said he would support Eastern European reforms.

The prime minister will also be under pressure to visit long-neglected regions such as the Middle East, South America and the Indian subcontinent.

Tougher U.S. Trade Stance Feared After Election

OW1902170190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1420 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—Japanese Government officials welcomed Monday the ruling party's victory in Sunday's national election, but expressed fears that it could invite a tougher U.S. stance on bilateral trade issues. With a series of bilateral trade talks slated for this week, the officials predicted the United States will press harder now that the Liberal Democractic Party has retained a stable majority in the 512-seat House of Representatives.

The two countries are set to discuss a wide range of trade issues in Tokyo starting Monday with talks on forest products. In addition, Japan and the U.S. will hold a third round of bilateral discussions on structural impediments to trade, called "the structural impediments initiative (SII)," on Thursday and Friday. The SII talks, originally slated for mid-January, were postponed due to the lower house election.

"Given the LDP's strong showing (in Sunday's election), it is certain that the U.S. will press us to make political decisions in a decisive manner during meetings like the SII talks," a Foreign Ministry official said on condition of anonymity.

Yukiharu Kodama, vice minister of international trade and industry, took a similar view and called for strong government leadership in dealing with trade issues.

"I hope the LDP will proceed now to build a political power with which it can take firm leadership in tackling a number of difficult problems facing Japan," he said. Japanese officials, are worried about a U.S. offensive in areas that the government has sidestepped in light of the election.

For one thing, Washington is expected to focus on Japan's law governing large retailers, which the U.S. has criticized as a barrier to U.S. imports. The U.S. has called for easing enforcement of the law on the opening of new large-scale stores. But the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, which governs the retail industry, is reluctant to yield on the issue.

"It's difficult to go ahead on the issue to the extent of abolishing the law," a senior MITI official said. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said there would not be any policy on distribution if the law is dismantled. "It's possible that local governments will take regulatory action at their will," he said.

Government officials suggest the government needs political decisions to resolve the trade dispute with the U.S., including the large-scale store issue.

Trade talks involving forest products, satellites and supercomputers are also seen as areas where strong political leadership is needed. The U.S. cited Japan for unfair trade practices in these three areas last year under the so-called Super 301 clause of the 1988 trade act and threatened retaliation unless Japan allows fair U.S. access to the three markets.

The two countries have held several rounds of working-level talks on access to the three markets but the issue remains unsolved. Some officials suggest the two sides cannot reach satisfactory agreements through working-level talks. They point to the issue of rice imports as an example of this.

Japan is unlikely to alter its ban on rice imports as the LDP has been advocating self-sufficiency in rice, a staple food for the Japanese, because of its historical dependence on voters in rice- growing areas.

Hirohisa Tanaka, vice minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, voiced determination to defend Japan's rice policy before ongoing multilateral talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

"We'll continue to explain to other GATT nations our stance on rice in an earnest manner as in the past," he said at a press conference.

Japan presented its policy-paper on farm trade to a GATT panel on farm trade rules last November. The paper, which called for self- sufficiency in staple foods, came under U.S. criticism for blocking free trade in farm products.

GATT is now completing its four-year Uruguay Round of trade negotiations, which cover 15 sectors of world trade, including farm trade, aimed at drafting rules on free trade.

Ministry To Seek Restraint on Investment in U.S.

OW1902171390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1416 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—The Foreign Ministry will ask the business community soon to refrain from corporate takeovers and real estate purchases in the United States that could wound national sensibilities, ministry sources said Monday. The ministry is worried about unfavorable reactions in the U.S. to recent major cases of Japanese investment.

Such reactions have not yet assumed serious proportions, but are spreading from Washington to other areas through mass media reports, the sources said.

Japanese consuls-general in the U.S. called for government action to prevent a further worsening of U.S. sentiments on Japanese investment at a recent meeting in Washington of the chiefs of Japanese diplomatic establishments in that country. The sources said not only Japanese big businesses, but also small firms and individuals should exercise caution when investing in the U.S. But they admitted the difficulty of distinguishing bad from good investment.

Mongolia

Sodnom Says Mongolia Seeks Multiparty Reform

OW1702114590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1109 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, Feb. 17 KYODO—Mongolian Premier Dumaagiyn Sodnom said Saturday that his nation will undertake political reform through next year to abolish the Communist Party monopoly on power and to introduce [a] multiparty political system. "Our goal is to transform the several decades-old central planning system to one based on democratic principles," said Sodnom, who is the second highest ranking official in Mongolia after head of state and Communist Party leader Jambyn Batmonh.

Sodnom, whose first visit to Japan is scheduled from February 27 to March 4, told Japanese reporters that a governmental trade agreement will be inked during his visit and expressed a strong desire for active discussion on promoting bilateral economic relations. Sodnom said the Tokyo visit will prove significant in the future development of bilateral relations. He will become the highest Mongolian official ever to visit Japan.

Sodnom admitted that the single-party rule by the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP) was "not right."

"I cannot say that the monopoly over the political system is right," he said. "The MPRP needs to improve itself, and at the same time, if new parties are formed for the interest of the people and the country, they should be competing on equal terms."

Sodnom said it was "natural" for young people to want to see quick results, referring to the opposition Mongolian Democratic Union, which was founded at the end of last year and is hinting at the formation of a political party at its first general meeting on Sunday. But he did not say whether the MPRP will recognize it as a political party, saying, "The union has not officially announced the formation of a party and we will study the issue after their meeting."

The MPRP is currently working on a draft of a new constitution expected to be formally adopted at the party's general meeting in November. Sodnom indicated that procedures for a free election with several political parties vying to topple the 70-year power of the MPRP would not come until next year.

Mongolia decided at the MPRP Central Committee general meeting at the end of 1988 on political and economic reforms. "We have discovered that neither hasty nor prolonged reforms could succeed," the premier said. "We are studying the cases in other nations and must find our own method of applying these reforms," Sodnom said.

He said the planned visit to China by Mongolian Communist Party leader Batmonh will create a major step toward a new development in their bilateral relations. He stressed that Mongolia considers relations with Asian and Pacific region nations very significant.

Politburo Member Predicts 'Purge' of Party

LD1602155590 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1436 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Ulaanbaatar (ADN)—At the moment there is no question of a purge in the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party [MPRP], Tserenddashiyn Namsray, Politburo member and Central Committee secretary, told correspondents. He denied the existence of factions within the Politburo, but said that there are differences of opinion.

He does not so much see dangers for perestroyka in Mongolia in a return to former conditions but in the diminishing intensity of this process. He described the informal organizations and movements which have recently sprung up, such as the Democratic Union, as children of the fifth plenum of the Central Committee, which heralded restructuring in December 1988.

In the meantime, the Democratic Union favors breaking the MPRP's monopoly on power and creating a multiparty system. At a news conference in Ulaanbaatar, the coordinator general of the opposition organization, Sajaasurengiyn Dzorig, said that the founding congress on Sunday has to decide whether the Democratic Union will become a party or whether a party will emerge from its ranks. The coordinating council is expecting around 500 delegates from all 18 Aymags. A political report on the situation in the country, the Union's program, and several draft laws of their own are in preparation.

MDA Leader Holds News Conference on Congress

OW1702011490 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 0015 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, February 15, (OANA-MONTSAME)—In our relation with the country's leadership there are misunderstandings of each other's position, attempts on the part of official authorities to resort to administrative methods and also differences in assessing the current situation in the country and in defining further ways of development, said S. Dzorig, chief coordinator of the Mongolian Democratic Association (MDA) at a press conference for Mongolian and foreign journalists. It was devoted to the forthcoming first constituent congress of this non-formal organization, slated for coming Sunday, February 18.

S. Dzorig informed that there are 70 MDA branches in Ulaanbaatar. They are also in four other towns and 12 out of 18 provinces of the country. About 500 delegates will take part in the congress, which is to discuss the MDA programme, charter and also a political report and supplementary reports, as well as an organizational matter.

Answering questions by journalists, S. Dzorig pointed out that the approach of the positions of the MDA and the MPRP [Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party] will depend on the flexibility of the latter's policy. "We have proclaimed as our aim the elimination of the monopoly of one party. That's why we are going to build our relationship with the MPRP on the principles of equitable partnership", he said. Answering the question if the MDA intends to be a poliltical party, S. Dzorig noted that the coordination council was not competent to decide this problem alone. "But I do not exclude a possibility of emergence of a party inside the MDA. In any case the MDA should preserve its role of guarantor of democratizing society," the MDA leader said.

S. Dzorig expressed the preparedness of the MDA to establish contacts with keen movements in other countries, but he denied the possibility of establishing relations with foreign governments.

The leader of non-formals said that there is no one either from the previous or the current party and state leadership behind the MDA. But it has its consultants out of academic circles of the country.

One of them is Dr. P. Nerguy, (ec. sc.) [economic science], who attended the press conference.

MDA Holds First Constituent Congress 18 Feb

OW1902181490 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 1200 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] The first Constituent Congress of the Mongolian Democratic Association [MDA], which stands for acceleration of the reconstruction process, was held in Ulaanbaatar on Sunday, February 18.

According to the confirmed data, more than 600 delegates from 16 aymag, provinces, and four towns of Mongolia, including Ulaanbaatar, attended the congress. They adopted the rules and platform of the Mongolian Democratic Association and elected its General Coordinating Council and its Presidium. Mr. Dzoring, a 28-year old postgraduate student of Mongolian State University, was appointed the chief coordinator of the Mongolian Democratic Association.

The Mongolian Democratic Association notes its main activity as granting favorable conditions to the Mongolian people for an independent solution of topical issues of social development and creation of a sovereign, (?humane), and democratic state.

Formation of New Political Party Reported

Ulaanbaatar Reports Inauguration

OW1902181990 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 1200 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] The creation of a new political party, the Mongolian Democratic Party, was officially proclaimed at a Constituent Congress of the Mongolian Democratic Association.

According to the statement of the members of its Political Consultative Center, the Mongolian Democratic Party is an entirely new type of party and won't have its own apparatus. Its objective is not to interfere in the state activities. It was proclaimed that the Mongolian Democratic Party is the (?branch) of the Mongolian Democratic Association, that it supports the Mongolian Democratic Association platform, and that it will help it in the elaboration of its political concept until the establishment of a multiparty system in the Mongolian People's Republic.

KYODO Reports Debut

OW1802114590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1130 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, Feb. 18 KYODO—An opposition party has made a debut in Mongolia, ending a 70-year-old monopoly of rule by the Communist Party amid sweeping reforms in the Soviet Union and East Europe. The first opposition party, the Mongolia Democratic Party (MDP), was established at the first national convention Saturday of the Mongolian Democratic Union (MDU), party sources said Sunday.

The move is not expected to cause any serious confusion in Mongolia, since the burgeoning political group has ruled out demanding any shift of power from the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP), which has controlled the country since 1921. The MPRP, which renounced its monopoly on power at its Central Committee meeting on February 7, is expected to support the first opposition group.

At Saturday's convention, half of some 600 MDU members became members of the new political group, and supported a draft platform presented at the time, MDP sources said. The platform and the president of the new opposition party were not disclosed. But six members of the MDU, which has pushed demands for reforms in the country since its inception last November, are expected to form the leadership, with MDU Chairman Sajaasurengiyn Dzoring retaining his post in the new group.

The inauguration of the first opposition party was marked by a rally of some 2,000 supporters, a phenomenon never seen before in Mongolia. The move, which came on the heels of the introduction of multiparty systems and democratic reforms in the Soviet Union and other East European nations, is thought likely to affect China, North Korea, Vietnam and other socialist countries in Asia.

MPRP Allows Live Coverage

HK1802062490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0601 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, Feb 18 (AFP)—Mongolia's two-month old opposition formally launched the nation's first independent political party here Sunday and immediately called for abolition of the leading role of the Communist Party. The Mongol Democratic Union launched the new party, the Mongol Democratic Party, at an unprecedented inaugural congress.

The ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, which has enjoyed a 69-year monopoly on power in the world's second oldest communist state, not only allowed the inaugural meeting to go ahead but also allowed live coverage of debates on state television. The government of Jambyn Batmonh has said it will rewrite the Constitution by the middle of the year to allow multi-party politics and to remove its monopoly.

Council of Ministers' Resignation Demanded

OW1902120990 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] The Mongolian Democratic Association Congress has adopted a petition to the People's Great Hural of the Mongolian People's Republic and the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee. It demands the resignation of the Council of Ministers and the People's Great Hural of Mongolia as directly appointed by the Central Committee of the ruling party and which has shown its incompetence to live up to the expectations of the people. The petition also demanded the resignation of the present Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party which is holding back the revolutionary reconstruction.

DSM Demands Dismissal of People's Great Hural

OW2002123190 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] The Democratic Socialist Movement, as an equal partner, is prepared to take part in the roundtable meeting of political forces of the country. This was revealed by one of the leaders of this new informal movement, (Tsetinbatal), at a press conference Monday sponsored by the Executive Council of the Democratic Socialist Movement, DSM. Speakers there noted that the movement sees its immediate goal as eliminating the present political system that holds back democratic renewal in the country. The movement's leaders defined the final objective as the establishment of a society of justice that will ensure free development of individuals.

The movement was founded a month ago at the initiative of teachers and students of the Mongolian State University. It was informed at the press conference that today the movement unites about a thousand activists. The movement demands dismissal of the People's Great Hural and establishment of a provisional Hural on the basis of joint efforts of all political forces which is called upon to hold new democratic elections and then transfer its power to the newly elected People's Great Hural.

Batmonh Chairs Commission on New Party Program

OW1802094890 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] The draft new edition of the party program has been considered in Ulaanbaatar by a special commission under the chairmanship of party leader and President Batmonh. He underlined that the draft program must become a document determining the role and task of the party in new conditions.

The participants of the meeting pointed to the need of correctly defining the role and functions of the party in the society's political system, renouncing the rights and functions incompatible with the party, and ensuring an active participation of all political forces and movements in the building of socialism by way of developing pluralism of opinions. The commission has underlined that the draft party program must provide answers to a number of principled matters, such as the multiparty system in the country.

North Korea

NODONG SINMUN Cited on Cheney's Tour

KCNA Denounces 'Occupation'

SK1902060090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0541 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 19 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN Monday [19 Feb] comments on U.S. Secretary of Defense Cheney's tour of South Korea from February 14 to 17.

The news analyst says:

His visit to South Korea coincided with the movement of huge armed forces into South Korea for the "Team Spirit-90" joint military maneuvers. In his statement upon arrival in Seoul, he announced that "The U.S. troops will remain in South Korea" as long as the South Korean puppets want it. This is enough to prove that his trip was designed to continue the U.S. imperialists' policy of military occupation and buildup of military bases in South Korea and examine the war preparations.

While hinting that the United States had the intention to "reduce" its troops in South Korea, Cheney said: "The numerical strength would be readjusted," with the means of information, ground forces, combat strength of the Air Force and other means of war left intact. He meant by this that the combat strength of the U.S. troops will be increased in content, and the "military reduction" is meaningless.

Cheney also squeezed from the puppets a promise of much more payment for the upkeep of U.S. troops than the current annual payment of 2,200 million dollars, by threatening them with the words of "military reduction." His brazen-faced act brings into bolder relief the aggressive and predatory nature of the United States and the master-servant relations between the United States and South Korea.

The traitor No Tae-u on the chair of the "president" and puppet Defence Minister Yi Sang-hun, lost to shame, clung to the coattail of Cheney and begged for the U.S. troops' permanent occupation of South Korea, whimpering that they could not accept the proposal for the "reduction of the U.S. forces." Furthermore, they totally accepted the U.S. demand for an increase in South Korea's share of the cost of maintaining the U.S. troops in South Korea. This fully betrays their flunkeyist nature and traitorous color, the news analyst says, and continues:

The U.S. imperialists and the puppets cried in chorus that they have "examined" the issues of transferring to South Korea the post of the senior member of the U.S. side to the Military Armistice Commission and handing over the "operational rights in peace time to South

Korea" and that the South Korean puppet army "will play the principal role," while the U.S. forces "play the role of support."

This is a trick to replace the relations of military confrontation on the Korean peninsula with the North-South relations so as to extricate the United States from the blame for tension. This is also an artifice of the puppets to create the impression that they have something like "independence."

At a time when the Korean people hope for the pulling down of the concrete wall south of the Military Demarcation Line, free travel and full-scale opening between the North and the South and the opening of the door of reunification, the U.S. imperialists and the puppets agreed to maintain the U.S. troops in South Korea and increase the capacity for attacking the North of Korea. This is an unpardonable challenge to the Korean people and the peace-loving people across the world, stresses the news analyst.

Pyongyang Radio Assails Junket

SK1902133590 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0022 GMT 19 Feb 90

[NODONG SINMUN 19 February commentary: "Cheney's Junket Aimed at Aggression and War"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of Defense Cheney made a junket to South Korea for 4 days from 14 to 17 February. He visited South Korea at a time when U.S. troops were swarming into South Korea from bases on the U.S. mainland and the Pacific to participate in the "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercise and when the forces occupying South Korea were all ready to move. In his statement upon arriving in Seoul, he made it clear that he had come to South Korea to reaffirm a promises that Bush made when he visited South Korea a year ago, and babbled that the U.S. forces will stay in South Korea as long as the United States desires and as long as South Korea wishes and that there must be no misunderstanding on this promise. This is enough to prove that his is a junket for aggression and war designed to continuously carry out the policies of military occupation of South Korea, turning it into a nuclear base, while examining war preparations.

During his stay in Seoul, he met No Tae-u and held talks with the puppet minister of national defense. He also appeared at the Western forefront and incited fever for a war of northward invasion there. In this process, the U.S. warmongers and the puppets talked about the readjustment or reduction of U.S. troops. This is deceptive. This is also designed to maintain the U.S. forces occupying South Korea and to substantially build up the U.S. forces and the puppet forces. We say this because, by hinting that he had any intention to reduce the U.S. forces occupying South Korea, Cheney led the puppets to say that combat forces must remain to maintain reliable deterrent forces. He also said that although the military forces would be readjusted, intelligence equipment, the 2d Infantry Division, the military strength of the Air Force, and other military means would remain. If intelligence-gathering means, the ground troops, the military strength of the Air Force, and other military means remain, what was meant by the readjustment of the forces in South Korea or their reduction? That does not mean anything.

Fulfilling the ambition to invade all of Korea, as well as Asia in general, by using South Korea as a military bridgehead or a forward nuclear base is the unchanging ulterior motive of the U.S.ruling class. For this very reason, the U.S. imperialists are deliberately aggravating tension, maintaining their occupying forces, and stepping up war preparations on the Korean peninsula, even while talking about detente in other areas of the world.

In response to the demand not only by the Korean people and the world's peace-loving people but also by the U.S. political circles that the U.S. forces occupying South Korea be withdrawn, Cheney made a junket to South Korea in order to justify their policy of occupation and to realize their attempt for perpetual occupation.

Cheney is shameless because, even though he had no intention to withdraw the U.S. forces occupying South Korea, he threatened the puppets by talking about the so-called reduction in order to increase South Korea's share of the upkeep of the U.S. forces. According to reports, while babbling that the occupation of South Korea by U.S. forces makes a contribution to guaranteeing peace, Cheney asked the puppets to pay $380 million for the annual labor cost of the military bases of the U.S. forces occupying South Korea and to pay for all the expenses for the movement of the 8th U.S. Army base in Seoul, Yongsan, to another location in South Korea, and the South Korean puppets agreed on this. If a country stations its military bases overseas, it must pay the rent for those bases and the upkeep of its forces. However, even though they station their military bases and maintain their occupying forces in South Korea in order to fulfill their aggressive purposes, the U.S. imperialists have annually burdened the puppets with $2.2 billion for the upkeep of the U.S. forces. Without being satisfied with this, Cheney cajoled the puppets, who cannot live without the United States, into paying more of the share of the upkeep of the U.S. forces. No doubt, this is the tyranny of an arrogant aggressor and a suzerain state of colonialism.

Cheney's junket has more clearly shown to the world the aggressive and plunderous nature of the United States and the master-servant relations between the United States and South Korea. During Cheney's stay in Seoul, the No Tae-u ring showed all of its toadyist and treacherous nature and its traitorous colors. This was shown by the fact that while shamelessly clinging to the sleeves of the U.S. secretary of defense and saying that they could not accept the U.S. side's proposal to reduce the U.S. forces, traitor No Tae-u, who wears the hat of the presidency, and puppet Minister of National Defense Yi Sang-hun not only begged for the perpetual occupation of South Korea by the U.S. forces but also accepted all of their master's demands that they increase their share of the upkeep of the U.S. forces. In fact, this is a dirty act that can only be committed by the toadyist nation-sellers who, after turning their backs to the people, are maintaining their existence under the protection of outside forces. This is the grave traitorous act of giving all of the national interests to the master; it is a grave traitorous act that poses an obstacle to the reunification of the fatherland.

While jointly committing grave crimes this time, the U.S. imperialists and the puppets even played tricks in an effort to conceal their crimes a bit. For example, they babbled that they would examine the issue of handing over to South Korea the post of the U.S. forces side's senior member to the Military Armistice Commission and the issue of transferring operational control in peacetime, saying the puppets will play a leading role, while the U.S. forces play a supporting role. For a general of the puppet forces to assume the post of the senior member of the side of the U.S. forces, which are occupying South Korea, while wearing the helmets of the UN forces, is also an unreasonable idea. The United States is squatting in South Korea as its colony and is maintaining its occupying forces there. It is clear that even if operational control over the puppet forces is handed over to the puppets under these circumstances, overall military control will remain in the hands of the United States.

The U.S. imperialists and the puppets talk about this and that. This is a shallow trick designed to replace the relations of military confrontation on the Korean peninsula into the North-South relations to ensure that the United States will escape from its responsibility for the aggravation of tension. It is also is a cunning trick to create the impression that the puppets have something like independence.

The Korean people unanimously want the concrete wall south of the Military Demarcation Line to be torn down, the realization of free mutual visits and total openness, and the reunification door to be opened wide. At this very hour, the U.S. imperialists and the puppets agreed to maintain the U.S. forces occupying South Korea and to step up their capability for a northward invasion. This is an intolerable challenge to our people and the world's peace-loving people who hope for peace in Korea and her reunification. Our people and the world's peace-loving people will in no way forgive aggressive, treacherous, antipeace, and antireunification crimes that the U.S. imperialists and the puppets committed during Cheney's junket to South Korea.

MAC Member Demands Cancellation of Exercise

SK2002090090 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0800 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Major General Choe Ui-ung, senior member of our side to the Military Armistice Commission [MAC], sent today a letter to the U.S. side in connection with the fact that it has started the provocative "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercise and has invited members of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission [NNSC] to observe the exercise. The letter reads:

I am sending this letter in connection with the fact that the U.S. side is waging the provocative "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercise against our side, the other signatory of the Armistice Agreement, and invited members of the NNSC to observe the exercise.

The U.S. side's staging of the "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercise by introducing into South Korea its huge armed forces and new military operational equipment from outside Korea is a grave violation of the Preamble and Subparagraphs 13-C and D of the Korean Armistice Agreement. The NNSC has the mission of separately controlling such a violation of the Armistice Agreement. That the U.S. side has invited members of the NNSC to so-call observe the "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercise in flagrant violation of the Armistice Agreement constitutes a grave criminal act designed not only to artificially obstruct the NNSC from working in accordance with its mission and purposes, but also, furthermore, to break the neutrality and impartiality of this organization.

The U.S side, which paralyzed the main functions of the NNSC by unilaterally expelling inspection teams of the NNSC from South Korea in 1956, intends now to abuse the NNSC in a bid to justify the nuclear war exercise it is staging in grave violation of the Armistice Agreement. We cannot but take a very serious view of this.

Sternly condemning the U.S. side for seeking its base political and military purposes by utilizing the NNSC, our side strongly demands that the U.S. side suspend the "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercise at once and that it cancel its invitation to members of the NNSC to observe the exercise.

If the U.S. side persistently invites members of the NNSC, staging the "Team Spirit-90" joint military exerciwse in definace of our just demand, it will be held wholly responsible for all the consequences arising therefrom.

Pyongyang on U.S. Doubling ROK Defense Burden

SK1802090590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0835 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 18 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppet clique decided to double South Korea's share of the cost of maintaining the U.S. imperialist aggression forces in South Korea, according to a foreign press report.

At a confab between the U.S. secretary of defence visiting South Korea and the puppet defence minister, the puppets committed the treacherous act of accepting the demand of the U.S. imperialist master to double the "financial aid" to the U.S. forces present in South Korea.

The puppets who are prolonging their dirty life under the "protection" of the U.S. imperialists' bayonet, begged of their master not to withdraw the U.S. forces from South Korea and, in return for this, promised him to drastically increase their share of the cost.

There has never been in the world such a puppet as the South Korean puppets who keep huge foreign aggression forces for a long time, shouldering the cost of their maintenance, and, as if it were not enough, gave their word to sharply increase it.

History will pass a stern punishment on these puppets.

U.S. 'Armed Intervention' Against Cuba Decried

SK1702045390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0445 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 17 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists have brought ten odd warships to the Guantanamo Naval Base in Cuba.

This reveals once again their undisguised scheme of armed intervention against Cuba, says NODONG SINMUN today.

Recalling that the U.S. imperialists frequently attempted armed intervention against Cuba, committing armed provocations on several occasions at the Guantanamo Base, the news analyst says:

This is military hysterics threatening the sovereignty of Cuba. What the U.S. imperialists aim at is to reinforce armed forces and aggravate tensions in the area surrounding Cuba and launch into an armed intervention against this country when they can find a pretext.

As part of such moves the U.S. imperialists have brought warships to the Guantanamo Base. The attack of the Cuban ship "El Herman" by U.S. warships on January 31 was to create a pretext of an armed intervention.

It is a foolish dream for the U.S. imperialists to try to attain their purpose in Cuba with strength. The Cuban people are fully prepared against the possible armed intervention of the U.S. imperialists. The revolutionary and militant spirit of the Cuban people strikes the world people with admiration.

The U.S. imperialists' anti-Cuban moves must be stopped without delay.

U.S. 'Reckless Arbitrariness' Denounced

SK2002104690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 20 Feb 90

["Reckless Arbitrariness of International Gendarme"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 20 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comes out with a signed article denouncing the reckless arbitrariness of the U.S. imperialists in the international arena.

The U.S. imperialists who recently committed an armed attack on a Cuban ship in international waters, trampling underfoot the internationally recognized principle of free sailing in the high seas, "protested" Cuba, alleging that the Cuban ship "refused cooperation," far from apologizing to the victim. This is an act of a thief raising a hue and cry, the paper says, and continues:

The United States behaves arrogantly as an international gendarme in the international arena, styling itself as a "special entity" which is not obliged to observe the principle of international law or rules of international relations and is granted the "privilege" to freely interfere in other's internal affairs.

This was made quite plain when the director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency Webster recently claimed that the United States is under important obligation to protect security and democracy in other countries.

It is an elementary rule of international relations that the responsibility for the security and democracy in each country rests with its government and people and no other country is allowed to interfere in them.

The absurd claim of the U.S. ruling quarters that they are "obliged to protect security and democracy" in other countries tells to what extent they have gone in their arrogance as the international gendarme.

Some time ago, President Bush said that there would be no improvement in the relations between the United States and Havana as long as Cuba refuses to change its political system. This means that the United States will continue its aggressive manoeuvres against Cuba, if the latter fails to renounce socialism and establish a political system pleasing it.

The U.S. imperialists unhesitatingly perpetrate under the eyes of the world aggression, intervention and subversive acts against socialist countries and anti-imperialist and independent countries in accordance with the dominationist doctrine that the social and political systems of any country must be to the liking of the United States.

The United States is brandishing the stick of human rights everywhere not truly for defending human rights but for interfering in the internal affairs of the socialist countries and anti-imperialist and independent nations under the cloak of defence of human rights.

The U.S. Government decided recently to grant the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation the power to arrest a "suspect" designated by it without the permission of the given country. This is a typical expression of dominationism and there is not the least regard for the rules of international law or other's sovereignty.

The real intention of the U.S. Government in taking such lawless, arbitrary step is to intensify international terrorism.

The trend toward independence against the U.S. is growing in all parts of the world and the aggressive foothold of U.S. imperialism is in a crisis beyond control.

Under such situation, the U.S. imperialists seek to "legally" dispatch commandoes abroad and intensify terrorism to stifle the progressive forces advancing under the banner of anti-U.S. independence.

North Proposes Youth, Worker Inspections of Wall

SK1902094690 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0800 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Telephone message to the South Korean minister of the National Unification Board from An Pyong-su, director of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, CPRF, sent on 19 February]

[Text] To Yi Hong-ku, ROK minister of National Unification Board:

As is widely known, in his New Year's address, President Kim Il-song, the respected and beloved leader of our people, taking into consideration the urgent demands of all the fellow countrymen and the times, put forward an epochal proposal for pulling down the concrete wall built in the area south of the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] and for realizing free travel and complete opening between the North and South.

All the Korean people and the peace-loving people of the world unanimously hope that the concrete wall will be brought down in our country at the earliest possible date and free travel and complete opening between the North and South will be realized, thereby opening a new phase for detente, reconciliation, and reunification on the Korean peninsula.

Recently, however, the persons in authority on your side, while verbally welcoming free travel and complete opening between the North and South, have asserted at every opportunity that there is no such thing as a concrete wall in the area south of the MDL and that there are only barriers [chadanmul].

This is nothing but an intolerable mockery of the ardent desire of all the fellow countrymen who long for the state of isolation between the North and South to be removed.

The concrete wall, which was built 10 years ago, runs across the middle of the national territory as a symbol of confrontation and division. Despite the fact that the razing of the concrete wall has become an indispensable demand for realizing free travel and complete openness, the people in authority on your side deny its existence. What we consider most important under such circumstances is to objectively confirm whether or not there is a concrete wall in the area south of the MDL.

In this regard, to objectively confirm the existence of the concrete wall, I consider it necessary to take the following measures:

First, we are willing to show your side the concrete wall in actuality. We have prepared films, videotapes, and photographic data to confirm the existence of the concrete wall in reality, not in words.

We would like to hand these over to your side at 1500 on 22 February at Panmunjom.

Second, we suggest that inspections be organized for the people from all walks of life in the North and South, including the workers, peasants, youth, and students—those who will directly participate in free travel in case the concrete wall is pulled down—to confirm the existence of the concrete wall with their own eyes.

It would be good if the youth, students, and peasants see the concrete wall right away, before anyone else, during vacation and the farmers' slack season.

In this connection, we hope that you will first send to our side students and peasants of your side, about 100 each, on 26 February through Panmunjom. At about the same time, our side, too, will send students and peasants.

If your side sends the students and peasants, we will warmly welcome them with compatriotic love and see to it that they are provided with all the conveniences and thoroughly guarantee their personal safety.

We believe that your side will have no reason whatsoever to refuse to accept this proposal of ours if there really is no concrete wall in the area south of the MDL as stated by the persons in authority of your side.

We hope for an affirmative reply from you.

[Signed] An Pyong-su, director of the CPRF Secretariat
[Dated] 19 February 1990

Foreign Demands for Wall's Removal Recounted

Committee Wants Wall Razed

SK1902211390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1515 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 19 (KCNA)—An emergency meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Liaison Committee for the Reunification and Peace of Korea demanded the removal of the concrete wall, a product of the "two Koreas" policy, in its secretariat information addressed to organisations of friendship and solidarity with the Korean people in different countries of the world.

The U.S. military occupation of South Korea is the main obstacle to Korea's reunification, the information said, and stressed: The U.S. neo-colonial rule over South Korea is an offspring of U.S. imperialists' Asia-Pacific strategy.

The information expressed full support to the new reunification proposal put forward by President Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

The South Korean authorities are hell bent on an anti-DPRK campaign at the bidding of the United States and shamelessly asserted that there is no "concrete wall," the information noted, and went on:

The concrete wall built in the early 1980s is a product of the South Korean authorities' policy of confrontation and cold war and a vast military setup, which threatens the peace and security of the entire Korean people and the world people.

The United States and the South Korean authorities, who hailed the opening of barrier in another country, say they would not pull down their concrete wall. Can it be justified?

If the North and South of Korea come to an agreement on free travel and a full-scale open door between them, it will no doubt greatly contribute to world peace.

'Wall of Division' Denounced

SK1902211990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1538 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 19 (KCNA)—Kang Il, honorary chairman of the Soviet Committee for the Promotion of Korea's Reunification, and his companion saw the concrete wall built by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets along the whole length of the military demarcation line and demanded the removal of this wall of national division.

Anybody who comes here will see that the concrete wall built high even on mountain peaks is not "anti-tank barricades" but a wall of division meant to keep one territory partitioned into two forever, he said. He branded it as a product of the separatist moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities.

He manifested full sympathy with the new reunification proposal advanced by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

He said:

Now the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique are staging large-scale military exercises. This is a treacherous, criminal act of dampenimg the desire of the entire Korean people in the North and the South for national reunification.

The South Korean people must force the U.S. imperialist aggressors to withdraw from South Korea in order to reunify at an early date the divided country independently and peacefully.

Kang Il and his companion visited Panmunjom today.

Opposition to Consultative Meeting Assailed

SK2002102490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 20 (KCNA)—The North side's preparatory committee of a consultative meeting for national reunification issued a statement Tuesday bitterly denouncing in the name of the entire Korean people the South Korean authorities for opposing the convocation of a consultative meeting for the formulation of the nation's common way of reunification and persistently pursuing confrontation and division.

The statement recalls that the government, political parties and organizations of the DPRK, at a joint meeting in September last year, proposed the convocation of a consultative meeting for national reunification involving the representatives of the authorities and political parties and organizations from the North and the South to formulate the nation's common way of reunification and suggested to the South side that the first meeting should be held in Pyongyang on February 20 this year and have made every sincere effort possible to this end.

It continues:

Despite the great interest at home and abroad and our sincere efforts, the consultative meeting for national reunification has failed to be convened as scheduled.

This is entirely attributable to the anti-dialogue, anti-reunification separatist position of the South Korean authorities.

The representatives of authorities and political parties and organisations in the North and the South, the parties concerned, should, first of all, have sincere stand and stance to sit down together and narrow differences and find commonness in quest of the nation's common way of reunification, since they put forward different proposals for reunification.

But the South Korean authorities not only blindly rejected the consultative meeting itself to define the nation's common way of reunification but also turned their face away from our proposal to convene the meeting by staging the anti-dialogue, anti-reunification "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercises in collusion with foreign forces.

All these facts clearly prove that the "dialogue" and "reunification" talked about by the South Korean authorities are all sham and false and they are, to all intents and purposes, a ruse to mislead public opinion at home and abroad.

Stressing that now in the '90s no one should delay national reunification and that a breakthrough should be made in the efforts for independent and peaceful reunification this year in which falls the 45th anniversary of the liberation of the country, the statement says:

If a new phase for national reunification is to be opened this year, a North-South top-level conference involving the heads of the authorities and the leaders of political parties should be convened to consult the matters of pulling down the barrier of division and realizing free travel and complete opening between the North and the South and, at the same time, a consultative meeting for national reunification should be arranged at an early date to formulate the nation's common way of reunification.

The South Korean authorities must give up the outdated confrontation concept and "two Koreas" policy and take a sincere attitude towards the dialogue for reunification, if they want a dialogue.

We hold that, in token of this attitude, the South Korean authorities should, first of all, discontinue the "Team Spirit-90" joint military manoeuvres going against the North-South dialogue for reunification, express their readiness to pull down the concrete wall built in the area south of the Military Demarcation Line, admitting its existence.

We also hold that they should discard their anachronistic policy of depending on outside forces to live under the "protection" of the United States and take a courageous step to have the U.S. aggression forces withdrawn from South Korea.

We will continue to make our sincere efforts to convene a consultative meeting for national reunification as desired by the entire fellow countrymen.

Sports Talks Assessed; Single Team Demanded

Paper Views Talks' 'Rupturing'

SK1602052890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0453 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 16 (KCNA)—The South side must stop the unjust act of befooling the fellow countrymen, clarify its stand of intending to accept our three-point demand of principle and promptly come out to the tenth-round of talks. If it persistently takes the road of rupturing the talks, it will be accountable to the nation and the fellow countrymen for it, says NODONG SINMUN today in a signed commentary.

Recalling that at the ninth round of North-South sports talks, our side proposed to the South side three-point matters of principle arising in the participation of a single team of the North and South in the 11th Asian Games including both sides' affirmation and announcement at home and abroad that, whatever happens, they will take part in the games as a single team, not as separate teams, the paper says:

This was a just proposition proceeding from a patriotic stand to save the talks from the danger of failure and form a single team at any cost in keeping with the ardent desire and expectation of the entire fellow countrymen. Nevertheless, the South side continues its very unreasonable act contrary to the expectation of the nation for the formation of a single team.

At a time when all the items for forming a single team have been agreed upon, the South side laid obstacles in the way of talks by making unjustifiable conditions such as "mutual trust" and "arrangement for implementation."

This, seeking to reverse the items agreed upon and obstruct the formation of a single team, is a provocation against us and an unpardonable betrayal to the fellow countrymen.

There is no change in our stand that the North and the South must participate in the Asian Games as a single team.

Whether the South side accepts our three-point demand of principle or not is a yardstick measuring whether it wants the formation of a single team or not.

We will follow the future act of the South side.

North Delegate Sends Message

SK1902050790 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0300 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Kim Hyong-chin, chief delegate of the North side to North-South sports talks, today sent the following telephone message to the chief delegate of the South side.

To Chang Chung-sik, chief delegate of the South side to North-South sports talks:

As you are aware, we raised three issues in the ninth full-dress talks, proposing that the two sides confirm that the North and the South will never participate in the 11th Asian Games as separate teams, but rather take part as a single team and declare this at home and abroad; that your side admit that it delayed the formation of a single team by forwarding proposals outside the talks and outside the issues to be discussed in the joint committee, and that these additional proposals be completely revoked; and that the remarks made by the responsible officials of sports circles on your side, saying that the South side will participate in the 11th Asian Games as a separate team, be revoked. In the telephone message dated 12 February, our side also urged your side to accept our demand as soon as possible and come to the 10th round of talks.

These were very just demands prompted by our serious desire to save the stalemated talks by any means and to ensure the success of a single team, which is desired by all compatriots and all sports people, so we can participate in the 11th Asian Games not as separate teams but as a single team.

However, your side, in a reply telephone message dated 14 February, did not accept the demands of our side with sincerity but foolishly attempted to avoid responsibility for breaking off the talks. This act made by your side is an intolerable mockery of the aspiration and desire of all compatriots and sports people for the birth of a single team, and an intolerable defilement of us, the other party to the dialogue.

It is well known to the world that your side, prompted by the scheme to use the 11th Asian Games for the criminal two Koreas plot, did not show consistent sincerity for the discussion of issues at the talks but resorted to delay tactics. Through these tactics, introduced near the final stage of the talks when the discussion of basic matters was concluded, your side intentionally drove the talks to the edge of rupture by putting forward absurd additional clauses.

Since the wrong position and attitude taken by your side throughout the entire talks process have been recorded on audiotapes and videotapes in detail, your side should know that it can never relieve itself, with whatever excuses you may employ, of the blame for having driven the formation of the single team to a broken state before the nation.

What your side should do, if anything, is to frankly admit its responsibility and apologize to all the nation for the crime of intentionally delaying the sports talks and dooming the prospects of the single team, as well as for taking part in the authorities' two Koreas plot. We think that your side should not clumsily play with words about the single team, which your side takes no interest in realizing, but frankly state that your side intends to participate as a separate team.

Also, we would like to make it clear that your side will be held totally responsible for the consequences arising from the participation in the 11th Asian Games as a separate team, not as a single team of the North and the South, because of your side's separatist position.

We would like to take this opportunity to note that, even if your side participates as a separate team against the wishes of your fellow countrymen and wins a few medals, it will be nothing but a shame that leaves a stain on the history of the nation.

We urge your side once again to ponder this and respond to our fundamental demands even now. We will watch your attitude.

[Signed] Kim Hyong-chin, chief delegate of the North-South sports talks
[Dated] 19 February 1990

Further on Phone Message

SK1902060590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0551 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 19 (KCNA)—Kim Hyong-chin, head of the North side's delegation to the North-South sports talks, in a telephone message to Chang Chung-sik, chief delegate of the South side's delegation, today urged the South side again to ponder over the formation of a single team for the 11th Asian Games and respond to the principled demand of ours in this connection.

The three-point demand made by our side at the 9th full-dress talks is that both sides should confirm and declare at home and abroad that they will not go to the 11th Asian Games as a separated team, but participate in it as a single team, that the South side should admit the fact that it had delayed the formation of a single team with matters outside the talks or matters to be discussed at the joint committee and completely withdraw the "supplementary principles" it had brought forward, and that the responsible sports officials of the South side should withdraw their remarks that the South would send a separated team to the 11th Asian Games.

Recalling that our side in the telephone message dated February 12 urged the South side to accept our demand and come out to the 10th round of talks, but it foolishly tried to evade the responsibility for having brought the talks to a collapse in its reply dated February 14, the telephone message pointed out:

Your side must clearly know that with no excuse or pretext can it ever evade before the nation the blame for having led the formation of a single team to a failure, because the wrong position and attitude taken by your side in the whole course of talks have been recorded in detail in video and sound tapes.

What remains to be done by your side is to frankly admit and apologise to the entire fellow countrymen for the crimes committed by your side in deliberately delaying the sports talks and darkening the prospect of the single team by joining the authorities in the "two Koreas" plot.

We consider that your side should rather frankly state that it intends to participate in the games as a separated team than absurdly pay lip-service to a single team to which your side is utterly indifferent.

I would like to make it clear that when the North and the South participate in the 11th Asiad as separeted teams, not as a single team, owing to your side's separatist stand, your side will be held fully responsible for the consequences to be entailed therefrom.

We also state hereby that even though your side may participate in the games as a separated team, betraying the desire of the fellow countrymen, and bag some medals, it will be nothing but a disgrace which will leave a stain in the history of the nation.

'Wind of Liberty' Appeal Called Hypocritical

SK1802091790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0841 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 18 (KCNA)—It is very preposterous and ridiculous that President of the South Korean "National Assembly" Kim Chae-sun blared in a southeast Asian country that the "wind of liberty" should be sent into the North through the expansion of North-South exchange, says NODONG SINMUN today.

The paper points out in a signed commentary:

South Korean puppets not seldom spell out a rigmarole about "liberty," but what kind of freedom is there in South Korea to be exported to others?

As is universally known, South Korea is a colony of the United States and, accordingly, its people have no freedom.

Not only the people live as colonial slaves but the puppet rulers as well are totally subjected to the United States. They should obey their master's order to pursue the "two Koreas" plot and meet his demand for offering their territory as a nuclear base.

South Korea is the harshest military fascist dictatorial society previously unknown [as received] and the people there are denied even elementary democratic freedom.

The outcry of the South Korean rulers for sending "wind of liberty" is no more than a try to establish all over the Korean peninsula the colonial military fascist dictatorial system of the United States veiled as "liberal democratic system." We warn them to give up such a foolish daydream.

The unique chuche-oriented socialist system of our own style has been established in the northern half of Korea and our Republic exercises its sovereignty in international arena and exalts its national dignity.

If the South Korean rulers have any intention to do something for freedom, they should, first of all, pull down the concrete wall built in the area South of the Military Demarcation Line, realize free travel, stop the "political restructuring" for one-party solo play by the military fascist elements, set free the envoys of reunification and ensure the freedom of the movement for independence, democracy and reunification.

Wonsan Students Demand Release of Yim Su-kyong

SK1902211890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1534 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 19 (KCNA)—Teachers and students of the Wonsan University of economics held a rally on Monday at which they denounced the outrages of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean military fascist clique in having imposed a heavy penalty on coed Yim Su-kyong who participated in the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students held in Pyongyang in July last year as a delegate of the South Korean "Chondaehyop."

Speakers declared that Yim Su-kyong who was so passionate in the sacred cause of reunification has not committed any "crime" which deserves a heavy penalty. Those who band the envoy of reunification as a "criminal" are heinous separatists and traitors to the nation, the speakers said, adding: With no intrigues can the No Tae-u group conceal its anti-reunification, anti-national and anti-democratic nature.

The speakers ardently called upon the South Korean students and people to wage an extensive struggle to liquidate the present fascist group, save the patriotic forces for reunification including Yim Su-kyong and her companion from the dark claws of the fascist group in particular, and conduct a more valiant movement for reunification in combination with the movement for democracy.

More Than 10,000 Slogan-Bearing Trees Found

SK1802001190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 17 (KCNA)—Slogan-bearing trees belonging to the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle are being discovered continuously in different parts of Korea.

A total of 10,000 slogan-bearing trees have been discovered as of mid-February this year since an extensive work for their discover, began after the opening of the Mt. Paektu secret camp in February 1987.

Those trees were found in many parts of the country from the Mt. Paektu area in the northernmost part of the country to South Hwanghae Province in the South.

Besides the trees, there have been discovered nine secret camps around the Mt. Paektu secret camp which the great leader General Kim Il-song used as a main stronghold in dynamically leading the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle between the latter half of the 1930s and the first half of the 1940s, and guerrilla bases and meeting places used by small units and groups of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army as well as traces of log cabins, weapons, printers, compasses and thousands of other relics and materials.

"Long live Kim Il-song, president of independent Korea," "Let us all uphold General Kim with a single heart," "O motherland, we will seat General Kim Il-song who fought against Japanese imperialism in the throne of independence forever," "Long live General Kim Il-song, the hero of the nation and the sun of all people" and many other slogans written on trees reflect the faith and will of the Korean people in the bitter period of Japanese imperialist rule to hold in high esteem and follow forever General Kim Il-song as the sun of the nation.

"Let us follow the lodestar of Mt. Paektu forever... 1942," "Bright is the future of Korea under the brilliant Lodestar of Mt. Paektu" and many other slogans praise dear Comrade Kim Chong-il as "the sun," "the son of the 20 million Korean people," "the independence star of Mt. Paektu," etc. They reflect the unshakable will of the Korean people to accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche under his leadership.

There are also such slogans reflecting the independent spirit of the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters who defeated Japanese imperialism under the chuche-based line and policy of the Korean revolution laid down by Comrade Kim Il-song as "the self-reliant great war against Japanese imperialism surely leads to the independence of Korea" and "the Korean people are the masters of the Korean revolution."

Inscribed on the trees are also letters showing the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters' warm love of the country and the people, indomitable fighting spirit and revolutionary comradeship, about 130 marks of meeting places and some 400 ciphers.

The slogan-bearing trees, relics and remains discovered on an extensive scale throughout the country add shine to the immortal revolutionary history of President Kim Il-song who victoriously led the heroic anti-Japanese armed struggle, and make it possible to throw new lights with historical evidences on the bases of small units and groups of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, their activities, the preparations for an all-people resistance, the operation for the liberation of the country with the internal forces, etc.

Film on 'Bright Star' of Mt. Paektu Released

SK2002101690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 20 (KCNA)—The Korean documentary film studio released the documentary film "The Bright Star Over Mt. Paektu."

This film shows several hundred slogan-bearing trees dating back to the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

These trees have been found in different places of the country from Yonsa and Hoenyong in North Hamgyong Province, the northern frontier of the country, to Chagang, South Hamgyong and South Pyongan Provinces, Pyongyang and South Panghae Province.

A great many slogans such as "Let Korea boast to the world of the birth of the star over Mt. Paektu" and "Let us hold the bright star over Mt. Paektu in high esteem for all ages...1942" reflect the Korean people's faith and will to carry down through generations the revolutionary cause of chuche to accomplishment.

Kim Chong-il's Birthday Noted, Celebrated

Mubarak, 'Arafat Send Messages

SK1702044590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0436 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 17 (KCNA)—Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il received congratulatory telegrams, letters and messages from foreign party and state leaders on his birthday.

The congratulatory telegrams came from Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Blaise Compaore, president of the Popular Front of Burkina Faso and head of state and government, Mengistu Haile Mariam, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and president of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic and secretary general of the Polisario Front, Jose Francisco Aguilar Bulgarelli, general secretary of the popular force organized in Costa Rica, Habimana Bonaventure, general secretary of the National Revolutionary Movement for Development of Rwanda, and the National Committee of the Communist Party of the USA.

The congratulatory message came from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the congratulatory letter from Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Kampuchea.

The congratulatory telegrams, letter and message warmly congratulated Comrade Kim Chong-il on his birthday and expressed the conviction that the friendly relations with the above-said countries and parties would grow stronger and develop.

They sincerely wished him good health and long life.

Ratsiraka Forwards Greetings

SK2002050890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0453 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 20 (KCNA)—Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il received messages of greetings from Didier Ratsiraka, president of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and France Albert Rene, president of the Republic of Seychelles, on his birthday.

Warmly congratulating Comrade Kim Chong-il on his birthday, the messages express the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and those countries would further strengthen.

They sincerely wish Comrade Kim Chong-il long life and good health.

Messages From Austria, Uganda

SK1702103990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 17 (KCNA)—Functions were held in different countries to celebrate dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's birthday.

Celebration meetings were held recently in Wiener Neustadt, Austria, and Masindi, Uganda.

Hans Wagner, chairman of the administrative committee of Wiener Neustadt, in his speech extended on behalf of the entire citizens warmest congratulations and greetings to his excellency Kim Chong-il, the dear leader, on his birthday.

He said the Korean people owe the great successes and miracles in all fields of Korea to President Kim Il-song and His Excellency Kim Chong-il.

As His Excellency Kim Chong-il leads the revolution and construction in the van, the Korean people are advancing along the straight path of socialism in firm unity, he stressed.

The chairman of the Masindi branch of the Uganda-DPRK friendship association who is also administrative secretary of Masindi district said in his speech he believed that the Korean revolution would win the complete victory without fail under the wise guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Congratulatory messages to Comrade Kim Chong-il were adopted at the meetings.

Lectures were given recently at the group for the study of the chuche ideal of the Central African Republic, National University of Rwanda in Huiery, Butare prefecture, Rwanda and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

A lecture was given and photo exhibition and film show were held in the 29th district, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, a film show and photo exhibition at the youth halls in the second and third districts of Niamey, Niger, and film shows at the Tampere branch of the Finland-Korea association and the dance and drama university of Algeria.

A congratulatory message to Comrade Kim Chong-il was adopted at the film show at the Tampere branch of the Finland-Korea association.

Chongnyon Sends Greetings

SK1602051690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0443 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 16 (KCNA)—Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il received today a congratulatory message from the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) on the occasion of his birthday.

The message sincerely expressed greatest glory and warmest congratulation to dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, the sagacious leader of our people, carrying the unbounded reverence and minds of loyalty of the entire functionaries of Chongnyon and Korean compatriots in Japan, on the occasion of the joyous February festivity.

Thanks to the tested guidance of you, the dear leader, who are brilliantly carrying forward the high intention of the great leader Marshal Kim Il-song, the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, have been more vigorously stepped up in the motherland and our country has been solidified as firm as a rock as a powerful socialist state, independent, self-sustaining and self-reliant in national defence, it noted, adding:

In particular, in 1989, you, the dear leader, not only have led to victory the grand socialist construction to build the Sunchon Vinalon Complex and many other grand monumental edifices which are of an epochal significance in strengthening the economic potentials of our country and lifting the people's living standards and reap an unprecedented bumper harvest in the countryside but also made sure that the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students was held in Pyongyang, the capital city of the motherland, on the largest scale and highest level in history, and thus displayed the glory of Korea to the whole world.

The entire functionaries of Chongnyon and Korean compatriots in Japan who keep it as a faith that only when one advances as taught by you, the sagacious leader, holding the great leader Marshal Kim Il-song in high esteem, can he glorify most precious political integrity and enjoy a true happiness are hardening their burning resolution to remain loyal to you, the dear leader, to the end generation after generation. We will effect a new innovation and upswing in the patriotic work of Chongnyon.

We will organise and mobilize in every way patriotic enthusiasm and wisdom of the Korean compatriots to the nationwide struggle to pull down the concrete wall built in the South side, a symbol of the national division, realise free travel and open all doors between the North and the South, fully support and encourage the South Korean people in their righteous struggle for independence, democracy and national reunification and make all efforts to realise the proposal for founding the democratic confederal republic of Koryo by checking and frustrating the "two Koreas" plot of the splittists.

We will powerfully wage external activities to strengthen friendship and solidarity with world people including the Japanese people.

The message wholeheartedly wished Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and long life.

Birthday Celebrated in Japan

SK1802084190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0802 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 18 (KCNA)—A central meeting of Koreans in Japan was held at the Korean House of Culture in Tokyo on February 16 to celebrate the birthday of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, according to a KNS report from Tokyo.

Speaking at the meeting, Yi Chin-kyu, first vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), said that the birth of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il was a great auspicious event in which the Korean people greeted the sagacious leader who would lead to victory the revolutionary cause of chuche pioneered by the great leader Marshal Kim Il-song and an historical event which promised them a brilliant future.

Under the wise guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, he noted, the Korean people could decorate the 1980s as a glorious decade which holds a most brilliant place in the history of the struggle for the cause of chuche, as a decade of proud creation and construction previously unknown.

As the dear leader has wisely led Chongnyon and Koreans in Japan and taken kindly care of them, we have been able to strengthen and develop the chuche-oriented movement of Koreans in Japan, overcoming all difficulties and obstacles, though one generation gave place to another and the reactionaries at home and abroad became wanton in their subversive intrigues, he stressed.

A congratulatory message of the Chongnyon Central Standing Committee to Comrade Kim Chong-il was read out at the meeting.

Groups in Japan Note Birthday

SK2002050290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0448 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 20 (KCNA)—Messages of greetings came to dear Comrade Kim Chong-il from Koreans in Japan on the occasion of his birthday. They came from the Permanent Council of the Federation of Korean Traders and Industrialists in Japan, the Central Standing Committees of the League of Korean Youth, the Democratic Union of Korean Women and the Union of Korean Teachers in Japan, the Central Permanent Councils of the Association of Korean Social Scientists and the Association for Science and Technology of Koreans in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Union of Korean Literary Men and Artists in Japan, the Permanent Councils of the Federation of Korean Credit Associations and the Federation of Korean Buddhists in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Union of Korean Students Studying at Japanese Schools and other organizations of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) and their affiliates, schools under Chongnyon and the Kumgangsan Opera Troupe, press organs under Chongnyon including CHOSON SINBO and the KOREAN NEWS SERVICE, enterprises including the Tonghae Trading Company, Ltd., the Kumgang Insurance Company, Ltd., the Korea Speciality Sales Company, Ltd. and the Korea-Japan Export and Import Corporation, local headquarters, chapters and branches of Chongnyon, schools of Koreans in Japan at all levels including Choson University and compatriots of different strata.

The messages say that Koreans in Japan, under the wise guidance, paternal love and solicitude of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, are defending all their democratic national rights with pride and self-confidence deep in their minds as overseas citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

They express their determination to achieve greater successes in the patriotic work of Chongnyon.

The messages wholeheartedly wish Comrade Kim Chong-il long life and good health.

Literature Mailed in South

SK1902211090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1509 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 19 (KCNA)—Members of groups for the study of the chuche idea in South Korea mailed literature to South Korean people of all walks of life on the occasion of the birthday of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, according to radio "Voice of National Salvation."

The literature titled "Good Health and Long Life to Mr. Kim Chong-il, Lodestar of the Nation" sent by the members of the "Hyangilhoe" to people of various strata in Seoul reads in part:

February 16 is the birthday of Mr. Kim Chong-il, the peerless great man produced by the nation.

It is the greatest fortune and glory of our fellow countrymen to hold in high esteem President Kim Il-song as the great leader of the nation in the history of the nation spanning half a century and such a great man as Mr. Kim Chong-il as the guide of the nation.

Mr. Kim Chong-il is an outstanding thinker and theoretician who further developed and enriched the chuche idea as a doctrine of independence espoused by mankind, the master of leadership who has turned the North into a state of the people's welfare which all the people envy, and the benefactor who embraces all the people in his bosom with profound love and gives them tonic.

Let us all bring earlier the dawn of independence, democracy and reunification upholding the lofty will of Mr. Kim Chong-il.

The literature sent by the members of "Chajuhoe" to the people of all walks of life in South Chungchong Province carried an article, which says:

February 16 is the significant birthday of Mr. Kim Chong-il, the great [word indistinct] man whom all the people look up to.

The dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il is the lodestar of national reunification, who has made all his efforts to remove the pains of the bisected nation.

Thanks to Mr. Kim Chong-il a bright dawn of reunification is coming and a bright future of the nation is promised.

Meanwhile, the members of "Paektuhoe" of South Korea printed various kinds of literature carrying the feelings of reverence for Comrade Kim Chong-il on his birthday and distributed them to its affiliated organ stations.

Poster Reported in South

SK2002061690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 20 (KCNA)—A long suspension poster reading "Celebration of the birthday of Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great successor to the revolutionary cause of chuche," was reportedly found hanging on a wall from the roof of a 3-storeyed billiard saloon building in Yangdok-tong, Masan City, South Korea, on February 17, causing a big stir among citizens.

The poster 4 metres long and 50 centimetres wide was in the name of the society of southern provinces for the study of the chuche idea.

Austrian President Supports Korean Unification

SK2002053290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0508 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 20 (KCNA)—The proposal to remove the barrier between the North and the South of Korea and realize free travel and full-scale opening which was advanced by the great His Excellency President Kim Il-song in his New Year address is an important initiative to achieve the reunification of the country at an earlier date, said Austrian Federal President Kurt Waldheim when he met the Korean ambassador to his country on February 16.

He said the three principles of national reunification and the proposal for founding the democratic confederal republic of Koryo put forward by respected His Excellency President Kim Il-song are of weighty significance in the struggle for national reunification.

Lao Acting President Rejects Ties With South

SK1802084890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0809 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 18 (KCNA)—Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, on February 15 expressed full support to the new proposal for national reunification put forward by the great leader President Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

When Phoumi Vongvichit met a delegation of the DPRK Foreign Ministry that day he said that the Lao party and government would never have relations with the South Korean puppets in any domain of politics, economy and culture, remaining faithful to their class obligation to Korea.

The Korean people, he stressed, are confidently advancing along the road of socialism under the wise leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea, not wavering in the least in face of the desperate moves of the imperialists.

Delegation Visiting Laos Issues Communique

SK1902211590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1526 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 19 (KCNA)—A communique on the visit to Laos by a Foreign Ministry delegation of the DPRK states that the two sides have agreed to the wider development of friendly relations favourably developing between the two governments and peoples in the interests of the two peoples.

The Lao party, government and people consider the new initiative of pulling down the barrier separating Korea into two parts and realizing free travel and complete opening to each other taken by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a reasonable proposal designed to put an end to mutual confrontation and to ease tension in the Korean peninsula, thus paving ways for the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea and defending the peace and security of the world and express full support for it, the communique notes.

According to it, a protocol on cooperation between the two Foreign Ministries and a plan for cultural exchange for 1990-1991 between their governments were signed.

Reunification News Conference Staged in Paris

SK1802085190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0812 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 18 (KCNA)—A press conference was given in Paris on February 12 on the emergency meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Liaison Committee for the Reunification and Peace of Korea (CILRECO) which had been held.

Speaking first at the press conference, Francisco da Costa Gomes, honorary chairman of the CILRECO and former president of Portugal, said that the emergency meeting carried weighty significance in that it made a deep analysis of the practical possibilities to carry into effect the new reunification proposal put forward by President Kim Il-song and its justness and took practical measures such as a step for waging a more powerful movement for support of the reunification of Korea in order to realise this proposal.

Noting that grave obstacles were still lying in the way of the reunification of Korea, he called on the reporters to strive to induce the international public to pay attention to the Korean question and create favourable conditions for the reunification of Korea.

Speaking next, Guy Dupre, secretary general of the CILRECO, bitterly denounced the South Korean authorities for shunning, in actuality, the DPRK's new reunification proposal which indicates a short cut to the solution of the reunification question, while waxing eloquent about "dialogue" and "unification."

He informed the reporters that the International Liaison Committee decided to dispatch international fact-finding groups to the North and the South of Korea in order to expose the anti-reunification stance of the United States and the South Korean authorities and give the world people a clear knowledge of the fact about the concrete wall.

Lawyer Norbert Dornier, representative of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, spoke next.

He elaborated on the detailed results of the investigation into the course of the unjust trial of woman student Yim Su-kyong and Father Mun Kyu-hyon which he had personally made in Seoul. He said he clearly realized that the heavy penalties inflicted by the South Korean authorities on them who did grand things for the reunification of the country are not a mere matter of human rights and democracy but a matter of the stand and attitude of the South Korean ruling quarters toward reunification.

Then answers were given to questions put by reporters.

Kim Il-song Congratulates Namibian President

SK1902220390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1542 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 19 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, today extended warm congratulations to Comrade Sam Nujoma, president of the South West Africa People's Organization, upon his election as first president of the Republic of Namibia.

In his message President Kim Il-song says:

The establishment of a Constitution of the Republic and your election as the president at the Constituent Assembly of Namibia is a brilliant result of the courageous and indomitable struggle of the Namibian people who have long fought against imperialism, colonialism and racism and for national independence.

The Korean people will continue to extend full support and solidarity to your just cause, convinced that the Namibian people, under your leadership, will shortly proclaim the national independence and score great successes in their struggle to thoroughly sweep away the aftereffects of colonial rule and racial policy and to build a new independent and democratic Namibia.

Believing that the friendly and cooperative relations closely tied between the peoples of our two countries will further expand and develop in the future through the common struggle against imperialism and for independence, I avail myself of this opportunity to express my sincere wish that you will make new successes in your responsible work to achieve national reconciliation, stability and prosperity.

South Korea

Journal Reports Kim Il-song Will Retire Soon

SK1602131190 Seoul Television Service in Korean 1200 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] The FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW of Hong Kong has reported that Kim Il-song of North Korea will hand over power to his son Kim Chong-il and will soon announce his retirement to the effect that he will keep only the symbolic position of the president of North Korea. It reported that KCNA, North Korea's official news agency, praised Kim Chong-il, whose 48th birthday falls on 16 February, calling him the great leader [widaehan suryong], which has so far been the title used only for Kim Il-song.

Kim Chong-il 'Great Leader' Title Discounted

SK1702070790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0657 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 17 (YONHAP)—NAEWOE PRESS, Seoul's official North Korea watcher, Saturday refused to attach any significance to a reference to Kim Chong-il, North Korean leader Kim Il-song's son and heir apparent, as "great leader."

NAEWOE described as misleading reports that Pyongyang's official news organs marked the junior Kim's 48th birthday by calling him "great leader," a title previously reserved for the senior Kim.

Radio Press, a private Japanese agency monitoring communist news broadcasts, said it was the first time Kim Chong-il was ever referred to as the great leader.

The North Korean media has called him "dear leader" or "party center" since he became a member of the Politburo and the no. 2 in power in the early 1980s.

The Tokyo-based Radio Press, monitoring the North's official Korean Central News Agency, reported that MINJU CHOSON, the organ of the Supreme People's Assembly and the Administration Council, used the words "great leader" in an article congratulating Kim on his birthday Friday.

North Korea's official news agency used the word "jidoja" not "suryong," the word usually applied to the senior Kim. "Jidoja" and "suryong" both mean leader, but the nuance of "suryong" is closer to "head" and so the junior Kim's title still falls short of his father's, NAEWOE said.

The word "jidoja" was also modified by adjectives that meant "future" and "the days ahead," NAEWOE said.

However, there was an allusion to Kim Chong-il consolidating the foundation to succeed his father in a firm manner, it said.

North Korea has upgraded the junior Kim's title on a gradual basis in proportion to the consolidation of the succession structure since his title appeared for the first time around September 1979, according to NAEWOE.

The junior Kim has appeared in Pyongyang's official media explicitly since October 1980. He was called "leader" in February 1983, chief commander in May 1983, "suryong" (without the prefix great) in February 1985 and people's father in February 1986.

He began to be called "great leader (jidoja)" in early 1987.

A North Korea watcher here said the misleading foreign media reports might have come about in the course of translating the title from Korean into English and might have been affected by another report hinting at the elder Kim's retirement from the front line, passing on the mantle of power to his son in the communist world's first dynastic rule.

Defense Secretary Cheney Leaves Seoul 17 Feb

SK1702030890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0251 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 17 (YONHAP)—U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney left Seoul for Hong Kong Saturday [17 February] after agreeing in principle with South Korean officials to gradually reduce U.S. troops and asking Korea to pay a bigger share of the cost of stationing 43,000 forces in Korea.

Winding up a four-day visit that also covered discussions on changes in the U.S. military role in Korea and the relocation of U.S. bases out of Seoul, the top defense official flew from a military air base southeast of the capital to Hong Kong for a brief stopover on his way to the Philippines.

Cheney was here in the first leg of a two-week Asian tour that takes him also to Japan to respond to U.S. congressional demands for a reassessment of the U.S. troop presence in the Pacific.

Cheney, leading a 16-member official entourage, met with President No Tae-u and defense minister Yi Sang-hun Thursday and visited the demilitarized zone (DMZ) dividing the Korean peninsula on Friday.

He told Korean officials the United States wants to withdraw 5,000 non-combatants out of forces in Korea stationed under a 1954 mutual defense treaty by 1993.

Cheney also asked that Korea increase its direct contribution to the cost of stationing forces to around 700 million U.S. dollars from the current level of about 300 million dollars.

Though apparently pressuring Korea regarding the troop cutbacks and burden-sharing, the U.S. official reaffirmed unwavering U.S. commitment to the security of South Korea, saying, "As long as there is a threat to the Republic of Korea and as long as the people of the Republic of Korea want our troops to be here, we will be here.

The U.S. defense minister also said the United States had no intention of totally removing its servicemen from Korea, noting that the threat from North Korea has not diminished.

Seoul shared the view that the U.S. troops be gradually reduced and expressed its willingness to increase its cost sharing within the limits of its ability.

The two sides agreed neither on the specific number of troops to be pulled out of Korea or on the amount of spending Korea is to additionally provide for the upkeep of the U.S. troops, and further discussions will be held on the two issues, Korean officials said.

But the two allies agreed to complete the controversial relocation of the U.S. base from Yongsan, downtown Seoul, to an area near Taejon, Osan or Pyongtaek, all south of Seoul, by mid-1990.

Regarding changes in the U.S. military role on the peninsula, divided at the end of World War II, it was also agreed that America will play more of a supportive role in the future as South Korea takes the lead.

U.S. pressure on Korea to increase in its cost-sharing seemed to draw criticism from many Koreans, who say the U.S. presence is not only in the interests of Korea but in the strategic interests of the United States.

Defense Issues With U.S. Remain Unresolved

SK1902225590 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 18 Feb 90 p 6

[Editorial: "ROK-U.S. Defense Minister's Talks Still Remain Within the Framework of the Cold War"]

[Text] Amid great public attention, the Korean and U.S. Defense Ministers concluded their talks on 15 February after discussing bilateral military issues—issues such as a cut in U.S. troops stationed in Korea, the sharing of roles, an increase in defense spending, and the relocation of Yongsan base. Following the talks, they released a "joint press statement" to make public what they had discussed.

What especially caught our attention in the joint press statement and the press conference that followed the defense ministers' talks was the part about sharing defense spending. According to the joint press statement, Korea and the United States have agreed in principle to reduce U.S. troops stationed in Korea, transfer operational control, and to continue consultations. The United States, however, wanted a "sharp increase" in cost-sharing from Korea, whereas Korea said it was "willing to gradually increase it within the limit of its ability." Judging from this, Korea and the United States appear to have great differences to iron out as far as this matter is concerned. It remains to be seen whether the Korean Government will be able to handle on its own the economic burden, including the cost of relocating the Yongsan base and an increased share of the upkeep for stationing U.S. troops in Korea—the burden that the United States is calling on Korea to shoulder.

Concerning the issue of reducing U.S. troops stationed in Korea, a matter of great concern during the just-concluded defense ministers' talks, the United States has confirmed that it will make no substantial reduction in the near future unless it changes its global strategy. Although there was a report that about 5,000 troops will be pulled out of Korea over the next three years, the Korean Government was reported to have agreed in principle to gradual cuts in noncombatants, but not in combat troops. However, given the present level of U.S. troops stationed in Korea, reducing noncombants by 5,000 is nothing but a measure to merely lessen or reduce the natural increase occasioned over the past years and, therefore, it cannot be seen as a practical reduction in the true sense of the word.

Korea and the United States have agreed "in principle" to change the defense scheme for the Korean peninsula, which is currently led by U.S. troops. The agreement would give the Korean Armed Forces the main role in defending the Korean peninsula and U.S. troops an assistant or supportive role. Nevertheless, this does not mean that the United States will immediately transfer operational control to Korea. The Korean participant in the defense ministers' talks made it clear that the two countries had not discussed this time around whether the United States would transfer the operational control to the Korean Armed Forces right away, and, therefore, in all likelihood, the two countries will not be able to resolve the transfer of the operational control any time soon.

After watching with keen attention the just-concluded talks between the two countries' defense ministers, which were a matter of great concern to us, we once again realize, to our own chagrin, that the movement toward arms control on the Korean peninsula has not stepped even a bit out of the framework of the cold war, even though the international situation as a whole is moving toward detente in giant strides.

Regular Seoul-Moscow Flights Announced

SK1702080690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0738 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 6 (YONHAP)—Korean Air (KAL) will begin regular flights between Seoul and Moscow on March 27 and the Soviet state-run airline Aeroflot will begin a regular service on the same route at the end of April, the Transportation Ministry said Saturday.

KAL will operate one flight a week on the Seoul-Moscow route and its 10 Europe-bound flights a week will be allowed to overfly Soviet territory, a ministry spokesman said.

KAL and Aeroflot also agreed to give the Korean carrier an additional weekly flight to the Soviet capital via China, if the pending South Korean-Chinese aviation pact is concluded.

Under the agreement, which takes effect March 25, the first KAL flight to the Soviet Union will be a B-747 on March 27, leaving Seoul at 9:50 P.M. for Moscow and then proceeding to Zurich, Switzerland.

This is the first regular air service between South Korea and a communist country. Seoul established consular-level ties with Moscow in December last year.

The route was established under a commercial agreement signed by KAL President Cho Chung-kon and Borris Likahazha, first deputy general manager of Aeroflot, in Moscow during talks Feb. 12-14, a KAL spokesman said.

One of KAL's two weekly flights will continue from Moscow to a destination in Europe, possibly Frankfurt, West Germany.

The other is likely to stop in Shanghai on its way to Moscow, pending agreement with China.

Aeroflot will begin passenger flights at around the end of April—one flying Moscow-Shanghai-Seoul and the other Khavarovsk-Seoul-Singapore—ministry officials said.

The two airlines also agreed to open a branch office in each other's capital manned by three officials.

The KAL-Aeroflot agreement also stipulates KAL's Europe-bound planes can land in Moscow for refueling and maintenance.

The new route will reduce flying time on KAL's European routes by four hours. KAL now flys to nine European cities—including Paris, Frankfurt, London and Zurich—via Anchorage, Alaska.

The Soviet Union has reached agreement with China on Aeroflot flying from Seoul to Moscow via Chinese cities but Korea must reach its own accord with China to enable KAL to use Chinese airspace.

KAL President Cho said he expects KAL to become a leading air link between the free world and the communist bloc once agreement is reached with China on using Chinese airspace or making stopovers in Chinese cities, perhaps later this year.

The direct air route to Moscow is the first tangible fruit of Seoul's northern policy and will provide momentum to drastically increase material and personnel exchanges between the two countries.

Shevardnadze's 'Wall' Statement Draws Reaction

Gerasimov Explains Remarks

SK1902014590 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 19 Feb 90 p 1

[By correspondent Chong Un-pung in Manila]

[Text] Gennadiy Gerasimov, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, on 18 February said that when, on 10 February, Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze called for the removal of the "wall on the Korean peninsula," his statement contained the symbolic meaning that North and South Korea should pull down the "wall" of mutual distrust.

Spokesman Gerasimov, who has been invited to speak at a journalists' meeting sponsored by the PFA [Press Foundation of Asia] and which begins on 19 February in Manila, the Philippines, answered a reporter's question during a reception for the participants of the 18 February meeting concerning the specific meaning of the "wall on the Korean peninsula," as mentioned by Foreign Minister Shevardnadze. He said that this wall meant both the "concrete wall" and a symbolic "wall" of mutual distrust between North and South Korea.

Spokesman Gerasimov then called upon the ROK authorities to remove the "concrete wall" they installed near Panmunjom.

While saying that the issue of establishing formal diplomatic relations between the ROK and the Soviet Union should not be dealt with hastily, Gerasimov stated that now that trade offices are open and consular relations have been established, the establishment of diplomatic relations has in fact been realized.

When asked about Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung's recent proposal to the Soviet Union and China for talks at the foreign ministerial level, he declined to respond directly, saying that he could not comment on such talks because a formal proposal has not yet been received.

Local Media Respond

SK2002003490

[Editorial Report] Seoul Dailies on 12 and 13 February react to Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's remarks on the Korean situation which he made in a Moscow press conference after his talks with his U.S. counterpart, Secretary of State Baker.

Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean on 12 February carries an 800-word editorial in page 2 under the title "We Welcome the Soviet Foreign Minister's Remarks: We Urge Contribution to Peace on the Korean Peninsula by the Nations Concerned."

The editorial says that the Shevardnadze's remarks on removing the "barrier of division on the Korean peninsula" presage "an important move to make the division of the Korean peninsula a matter of common interest not only for the United States and the Soviet Union but also for the entire world."

Noting the content of the U.S. and Soviet foreign ministers' joint statement on easing tension on the Korean peninsula and on their support for inter-Korean dialogue, the editorial goes on to say: "The division of the Korean peninsula is certainly an internal matter of the nation which needs an independent settlement within the nation. Thus, a settlement through any major powers' unilateral negotiations over our heads must be avoided in any event. However, there is the saying that the person who has tied a knot should undo it. Thus, if it is based on such an affirmative spirit, the United States and the Soviet Union can contribute to bringing peace to the Korean peninsula, because they are the parties which are to blame for having divided the Korean peninsula."

Noting North Korea's biased propaganda over the "nonexistent concrete wall," the editorial describes Shevardnadze's mention of the wall as "symbolic," denoting such a barrier as the "truce line."

Saying that "all Asian nations concerned know that peace on the Korean peninsula is a precondition to stability in East Asia," the editorial concludes: "North Korea must stop running counter to the trend of history but come forth for realizing free mutual visits between the North and South."

TONG-A ILBO, in its 800-word commentary by reporter Pang Hyong-nam carried on page 3 of the same edition, notes the Soviet Union's "political and economic need to induce North Korea to the open door." The daily says that, "if tension is eased on the Korean peninsula, the Soviet Union can significantly improve its relations with South Korea and can economically relieve itself of a burden by reducing its military aid for North Korea."

Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean carries 800-word editorial in page 2 of its 12 February edition under the title "The Major Powers Knocking the Door to the Reunification of Korea: The Message Contained in the Moscow Joint Statement."

Saying that Shevardnadze's stand which he disclosed after issuing the U.S.-Soviet joint statement can in a way be regarded as "an endorsement of what North Korea's Kim Il-song mentioned in his New Year's address," CHUNGANG ILBO goes on to add: "Shevardnadze, however, mentioned neither side of North or South Korea. He simply appealed to the international community about removing the barrier. This gives a strong impression that he only meant the barrier as a symbol of the division between the North and South."

The editorial notes the Soviets' "need to expand exchanges with South Korea" as a part of its open door policy toward the West. Noting in this regard North Korea's "strong opposition" as a stumbling block to such a Soviet need, the editorial points out the Soviets' indeterminate and hesitant attitude toward South Korea which the Soviets have adopted because of this, as was shown when it was establishing consular relations with South Korea and on other occasions. In this regard, the editorial goes on to add: "To extricate itself from such a dilemma, the Soviet Union is looking forward to easing tension between North and South Koreas and is even unofficially urging the cross-recognition of North and South Koreas by the surrounding countries."

Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean, in its 700-word commentary by reporter Yun Tok-han carried in page 3 of its 12 February edition, says that "it is noteworthy that the barrier of the division of the Korean peninsula has now been placed in the hands of world public opinion" as a result of the U.S.-Soviet talks held this time.

KYONGHYAHG SINMUN predicts that Shevardnadze's mention of the Korean wall would make "the existence of the wall a fait accompli, despite our government's denial, and would make the matter a target of continuing international debate."

CHOSON ILBO on 13 February carries an 800-word editorial entitled "The Soviet Minister's Remarks on 'the wall on the Korean peninsula.'" Referring to the U.S.-USSR foreign ministers' talks held in Moscow on 10 February, notes significance of the joint statement on conclusion of talks that touched on the issue of the Korean peninsula. Noting the significance of mentioning of the Korean issue in a U.S.-USSR joint statement for the first time, the editorial says, "We welcome this, since the United States and particularly the Soviet Union, which are responsible for causing the national division of our country, made it clear that they support the peaceful solution to the issue of the Korean peninsula." The editorial then notes Shevardnadze's remarks in a news conference after the issuance of the joint statement in which he called for pulling down "the concrete wall in the DMZ that divides the Korean peninsula," noting the South's "failure to react properly to the DPRK proposal on this." The editorial regrets that Shevardnadze's referring to "the concrete wall" gave the impression that he supports Kim Il-song's call for pulling down the 'concrete wall' which does not exist. The editorial notes that Western media report Shevardnadze's remarks in a different sense—namely, that Shevardnadze mentioned the wall as a symbolic wall dividing the country. The editorial then says, "If Shevardnadze called for the pulling down of the 'concrete wall' referring to that which was fabricated by Kim Il-song, we ought to make efforts to correct his misconception through diplomatic channels or by means of other contacts." The editorial concludes by saying, "We should regard these remarks as important because they were made by the foreign minister of a major power having much to do with us; but, if we take them as some great new proposal and as something that will expedite the coming of reunification, we might fall victim to the trick of those who are scheming to harm us."

HANGUK ILBO on 13 February carries an 800-word editorial entitled "The U.S.-USSR 'Statement on the Korean Peninsula' That Draws Our Attention." The editorial welcomes the U.S.-USSR joint statement which touched on the issue of the Korean peninsula and called for easing of tensions on the Korean peninsula and the North-South dialogue. It then turns particular attention to Shevardnadze's remarks following the joint statement, "giving an impression that the Soviet Union supports the North Korean proposal for 'pulling down the wall' that divides the Korean peninsula," calling for the withdrawal of U.S. troops" from the ROK. The editorial then notes that Shevardnadze "publicly acknowledged that the conditions for the withdrawal are not ripe yet," and says that this is important. The editorial notes that "the true purpose of Shevardnadze's call for the 'concrete wall' mentioned by Kim Il-song could have been to induce the North to openness." The editorial then concludes by saying, "Seeing the rapid changes taking place in the international situation, we must stress that the most important thing is political, economic, and social development and stability. With such development and stability maintained, we should keep track of, and cope with, the changes in international politics."

SEOUL SINMUN on 13 February carries an 800-word editorial entitled "The Soviet Foreign Minister's Call for the Removal of the 'Wall on the Korean Peninsula.'" The editorial welcomes the fact that "the Soviet Union seems to have begun to take an interest at last in the solution to the issue of the divided Korean peninsula thanks to the 'new thinking' of the Soviet Communist Party General Secretary Gorbachev." It then notes Shevardnadze's remarks calling for "international joint efforts for the removal of the 'wall of division on the Korean peninsula' now that the wall of German division is being eliminated." The editorial welcomes the fact that the foreign ministers of the United States and the Soviet Union expressed official and specific interest in removing the wall of division, referring to the elimination of the Berlin Wall, "when the issue of German reunification is showing signs of settlement much sooner than anticipated and when the worldwide focus on the openness and reform in the communist camp is moving from Europe to Asia." It notes that "this is a hopeful sign that the issue of the Korean peninsula has become an important issue for both the United States and the Soviet Union, and that the discussion between these two big countries on the issue of the Korean peninsula has been showing considerable progress." It notes that "this could be a prelude to a series of steps taken by the United States, the Soviet Union, and other surrounding countries for the easing of tensions on the Korean peninsula, such as the cross-recognition of North and South Korea and for inducing North Korea to openness, which may come in the wake of the U.S.-USSR summit talks in June." The editorial also notes that Shevardnadze's remarks "suggest the Soviet Union's desire to exercise strong influence on the issue of the Korean peninsula." Then the editorial notes that "if the Soviet Union, which is reported to have exercised its behind-the-scenes influence on the democratization and reform in the Eastern Europe, turned its interest to the stagnant Asian situation, particularly North Korea, it could mean that a very significant change is coming to the situation of the Korean peninsula, as well as North Korea."

Lawmaker To Map Out Kim Yong-sam Moscow Visit

SK1602125090 Seoul YONHAP in English 1233 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 16 (OANA-YONHAP)—A South Korean ruling Democratic Liberal Party's lawmaker Chong Chae-mun left for Moscow Friday to pave the way for a visit of DLP co-leader Kim Yong-sam in mid-March.

In Moscow, Chong will map out Kim's itinerary with Soviet officials, while arranging schedules for Kim's interviews with Soviet leaders.

It is reported that there is a possibility of Chong's contacting North Korean diplomats assigned to Moscow.

Developing Relations With USSR Analyzed

SK2002090390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0828 GMT 20 Feb 90

[By Chae Song-hui]

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 20 (YONHAP)—South Korea's bid to normalize its relationship with the Soviet Union appears to be gathering momentum, judging from many separate but seemingly interrelated moves taken both by Seoul and Moscow recently.

Seoul's zeal for diplomatic relations with Moscow was heavily featured in the remarks of a veteran career diplomat in an unusual news conference on Monday [19 February].

Scheduled to open a pilot diplomatic showroom early next month in Moscow, Kong No-myong, a prominent figure in the Foreign Ministry, spoke highly of the possibility of the Korean and Soviet foreign ministers getting together for a meeting and said he would make "strenuous" efforts for its realization.

It is unprecedented for a Korean diplomat to hold a news conference and Kong's openness was a sharp departure from the customary practices of government officials, who are normally shy about revealing their views or the workings of their professional domain.

Kong further observed that the upcoming visit to Moscow by Kim Yong-sam, a co-leader of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), will be a "big milestone" in relations between the two countries. He said the itinerary for Kim's trip has not been finalized but added, "Kim is expected to meet influential, high-level officials."

Barely nine days earlier, Moscow took the meaningful step of drawing world attention to the Korean problem. In a news conference at the end of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Moscow, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze called for easing tension on the Korean peninsula and international efforts to break down the "Korean wall."

Since a joint statement issued after his talks with Baker manifested a common desire to reduce tensions and support South-North Korean dialogue on the Korean peninsula, Shevardnadze's remarks at the news conference were accepted by many commentators here more as an indication of a positive response to Seoul's "nordpolitik" rather than support of North Korea's argument that there is a Berlin Wall-like concrete wall south of the military demarcation line in Korea.

On Seoul's part, Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung told a local TV station Feb. 15 that he hoped to have separate official meetings with his counterparts from the Soviet Union and China in search for ways to reduce tensions on the peninsula and to discuss normalization of bilateral relations.

Two days later, the Korean Government announced an accord between Korean Air (KAL) and the Soviet state-run Aeroflot on direct flights between the two countries, which is widely accepted as a concrete sign of improving relations.

Speaking at a reception hosted by the Press Foundation of Asia (PFA) in Manila on Sunday, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov reportedly described the aviation accord as "a positive sign of good relations." The Soviet official also listed the exchange of trade offices and opening of "virtual" consular relations as events that will "lead to good future relations" between Seoul and Moscow.

On controversy over the alleged existence of a concrete wall on the Korean peninsula, Gerasimov is believed by South Korean watchers to have taken a balanced position and was reported as saying, "What Shevardnadze says of the Korean wall is not the concrete wall alone. It is a wall of distrust between South and North Korea also."

Soviet officials were echoing North Korean President Kim Il-song's New Year's call for the dismantling of a "concrete wall" that South Korean officials have consistently denied exists.

Pointing out that Gerasimov's clarification of what his boss meant when he said "Korean wall" follows hard on the heels of a North Korean decision to stop slandering Seoul overseas, some observers here suggest Moscow might have appeased North Korean discontent over the Kremlin's Korea policy.

On top of all these signs, Kim Yong-sam's mid-March Moscow trip has immense implications for bilateral relations since it will be made in his capacity as co-leader of the ruling party.

Some observers here say Kim will certainly be more cordially received by Soviet officials than in June last year, when he visited the Soviet Union in his capacity as an opposition leader.

Reasoning that relations have improved remarkably since his first visit, they refuse to exclude the possibility that Kim may meet president Mikhail Gorbachev and other senior Soviet leaders.

Others, however, have less optimism for an early breakthrough in the Korean bid for full diplomatic relations with the Soviet union, arguing that the Kremlin's South Korea policy is basically one of economic need rather than political compatibility. They say diplomatic normalization will come only after South Korean business inroad into the Soviet Union is in full swing and has produced concrete results.

China Not To Establish Relations With ROK

SK1702040090 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 17 Feb 90 p 2

[Report by correspondent U Hong-che from Hong Kong]

[Text] On 16 February, the WEN HUI BAO reported that Li Zhaoxing, spokesman for the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, revealed that "China will not establish government-level relations with Korea and that there will be no changes in this policy."

Kim Tae-chung Calls for Moving Panmunjom Talks

SK1702100090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0817 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Songnam, South Korea, Feb. 17 (YONHAP)—Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung has urged the South Korean Government to have confidence in the "democratic sense" of the people and lift the ban on listening to the North Korean broadcasts.

"The administration should allow the people to see and hear North Korean TV and radio broadcasting freely if it is really willing to solve the problems between South and North Korea," the leader of Korea's sole opposition Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) said during a political rally here Saturday.

"To make headway in dialogue between the South and North, all inter-Korean contacts should be held in Seoul and Pyongyang in the presence of the peoples living in both sides, regardless whether they are preparatory or plenary ones. The two sides should stop having those contacts at the truce village of Panmunjom," Kim said.

Calling for a struggle against the conservative alliance of the Democratic Justice Party, Reunification Democratic Party and New Democratic Republican Party, he said, "we will completely abide by the three principles of non-violence, non-procommunism and non-antiamericanism in our struggle in the future."

Kim reaffirmed that his party will continue its four-stage struggle by direct public relations campaigns, a fight in the extraordinary session of the National Assembly slated for late this month, a 10 million-signature petition drive to counter the merger, and victory in local elections later in the first half of the year.

"To stabilize the political situation and seek dialogue with confidence with North Korea's communist regime for reunification of the divided Korean nation, the government should represent the rights and interests of workers, farmers and the poor," Kim said.

Abroad, North Softens Attitude Toward South

SK1802075490 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 18 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] It was learned on 17 February that North Korea has recently begun softening its attitude toward South Korea. Along with other issues, North Korea is backing away from its former use of outrageous language in denouncing South Korea's northern policy.

Ambassador Hong Sun-yong has just returned from Bulgaria, where he had signed a provisional agreement on establishing diplomatic relations with that country. On 17 February he said, "I have heard that, unlike its practice in the past, North Korea did not display any attempts to block our country from establishing diplomatic ties with Bulgaria. North Korea seems to have given up on South Korea's establishing diplomatic ties with East European countries, one after another."

Commenting on this, one government official said: "North Korea has begun softening its attitude toward South Korea, backing away from its previous attitude of using harsh language—as it did in denouncing our country and Hungary when the two countries established diplomatic ties last February. In countries where both the South and North have overseas missions, North Korea, in contrast to its past practice, has begun showing a soft attitude and hardly picks fights with us."

The government official added: "It remains to be seen whether such a shift in North Korea's attitude towards the South signifies a change in its policy towards the South."

North Allegedly Apologizes to Hungary, Poland

SK1902223990 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 19 Feb 90 p 1

[Excerpt] North Korea recently has drawn attention by instructing the chiefs of its overseas missions to refrain from excessively denouncing South Korea and by showing signs of adopting a conciliatory attitude toward other countries, including sending directives to the chiefs of overseas missions to recant or discontinue denouncing the countries that have established diplomatic ties with South Korea.

According to East European sources who recently visited South Korea and Western sources well versed in North Korean affairs, North Korean authorities reportedly have issued new guidelines on the diplomatic approach toward East European countries and new rules governing their approach toward their South Korean counterparts. These guidelines reportedly were issued to the chiefs of overseas missions during an emergency meeting that opened in Pyongyang on 26 December last year and ran through 10 January. In the wake of these new guidelines, specific cases have been detected in which North Korean diplomats apologized to the Hungarian and Polish Governments for having used excessively outrageous language in denouncing them last year, when the two governments established diplomatic relations with South Korea, and then the North Korean diplomats conveyed their intent to normalize ties with these countries. [passage omitted]

North Korea Urged To Come to Dialogue, Exchange

SK2002033190 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 13 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "North Korea: Wake Up to the International Reality!"]

[Text] Despite the fact that under the pretext of the "Team Spirit" exercise North Korea has announced that it will suspend the North-South dialogue, on 11 February the South side advanced another proposal for jointly holding traditional national folklore festivals.

We do not know why North Korea has deliberately backed away recently from a North-South dialogue. However, we would like to again call on North Korea to be awakened to the international environment which surrounds us, and to reality.

We are watching the international environment change in Eastern Europe. The international environment in the vicinity of the Korean peninsula has also changed. That is, the policy and attitude of the Soviet Union, North Korea's ally, toward the Korean peninsula has changed.

After concluding the U.S.-Soviet foreign ministerial talks in Moscow on 10 February, Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs Eduard Shevardnadze called for international efforts to remove a "wall" on the Korean peninsula and supported the alleviation of tension and dialogue between North and South Korea. We would like to view this attitude of the Soviet Government as an active move to make international efforts, including countries in our vicinity, to solve the Korean peninsula question, which, as the last byproduct of the postwar cold war, has remained unresolved.

Such a change of attitude by the Soviet Union also is seen in remarks of Soviet scholars who exercise significant influence on the Soviet policy toward the Korean peninsula. In an international symposium that our newspaper company organized on 1 February in Santa Barbara, the United States, in celebration of the 70th anniversary of its founding, Vladlen Martiynov, director of the World Economic and International Relations Institute (IMEMO), said that such reforms as perestroyka in the Soviet Union will also take place in North Korea. Also, Dr. Aleksey Arbatov of this institute supported North-South cross-recognition and, as a measure to alleviate tension, proposed the scaledown of troops deployed along the DMZ by North and South Korea.

In an interview with Japan's MAINICHI SIMBUN, on 11 February, Georgiy Kunaze, director of the IMEMO's Department of Korean and Japanese Affairs, stressed that the relations of alliance between North Korea and the Soviet Union have changed and that those relations of alliance now only mean that the Soviet Union will "help North Korea when it is invaded." He also said that progress in relations between Korea and the Soviet Union is not linked to progress in relations between the United States and Japan and North Korea.

These remarks by the Soviet side and its attitude mean that the Soviet Union's policy and attitude toward the North-South Korean problem have become more realistic.

At the Santa Barbara seminar organized by our newspaper company, some scholars of the United States, the Soviet Union, Japan, and other countries even predicted that an unforeseen occurrence may take place in North Korea and stressed a need for the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Japan, and other countries in North Korea's vicinity to prepare for such an occurrence.

We know that North Korea is not insensitive to the change of the international situation. This is evidenced by the fact that North Korea supported the reformist policy of the Soviet Union last year.

We think that North Korea's suspension of all channels of dialogue runs counter to an international trend that hopes for North-South detente and free mutual visits. We again call on North Korea not to turn a blind eye to reality but to come to all the possible forms of dialogue and exchange with the South.

Cho Sun Says Government To Push Reforms

SK1502071090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0610 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 15 (YONHAP)—South Korea's top economic planner said Thursday the government will unshakably pursue land and tax reforms over the next few years despite growing opposition among the upper classes to drastic change.

Cho Sun, the deputy premier and economic planning minister, said the government will push ahead with tax reforms without hesitation to heavily penalize unearned income and to enforce the use of real names in financial transactions so the underground economy and real estate speculation are brought under control.

"We should set aside the next two or three years as a coordination period for fortifying and restructuring our economy, a foundation for long-term stable growth," Cho told a meeting of the federation of Korean Industries.

Cho said it is impossible for Korea to make a remarkable economic recovery this year but expressed reluctance to take short-term measures to boost the economy, saying it undermines overall stability.

Over the past couple of months, as the national economy showed signs of stagflation, there have been growing complaints that the top economic planner's policy emphasizes balanced redistribution of wealth over growth.

Entrepreneurs, landowners and other better-off Koreans seemed against the economic reforms and are frantically lobbying to water down the reform bills now pending in the National Assembly.

Ministry To Impose New Controls on Military

SK1502045290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0305 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 15 (YONHAP)—The Defense Ministry will impose strict new controls on the use of military weapons and ban political activities inside the barracks in new standing orders for the armed forces.

A ministry draft was approved Wednesday in a meeting of top military commanders attended by Defense Minister Yi Sang-hun and the chiefs of staff from the army, navy and air force, according to the ministry.

Under the new standing orders, weapons may not be used except in three "inevitable" situations: and even in these cases proper prior warning should be given first and an immediate report on the situation and reason should be made to higher officers after the use.

The inevitable situations are in self-defense, in defense of facilities and materials while on duty and in response to a collective assault or threat that cannot be repelled without resort to force.

The new orders apparently take into consideration the debate during parliamentary hearings on the 1980 Kwangju civil uprising, which claimed about 200 lives as a result of bloody military suppression.

At the hearings in late 1988, a great controversy erupted as to who ordered the troops to open fire on the protesters, who was responsible and what justified the order. Military and civilian witnesses testified differently from each other.

The hearings failed to find those responsible for the fatal shootings and it exasperated Kwangju citizens and people, who were watching the proceedings on television.

The new code of conduct also stipulates that servicemen must not engage in politics beyond voting in elections and bans eight activities that include joining a political party, expressing consent or dissent to a political group in a rally or the mass media and participating in a demonstration or march organized by a political organization.

The draft seems to stress the neutrality of the military to rectify its image as a "political group" grabbing power in coups as well as to prevent servicemen from engaging in anti-government activities.

The new regulations also limit orders to "directives on duty" and pave the way for military personnel to refuse to obey orders that break the law or to question orders that are ambiguous. The old code calls for absolute obedience.

Along with the revision of standing orders, the Defense Ministry drafted new regulations for behaviour inside the barracks that ban any form of assault or severe punishment.

The new standing orders, the fourth revision since 1966, will take effective when the president approves and proclaims them.

A ministry official said, "the standing orders are being amended in an effort to liquidate authoritarian elements in the military and establish a new code of conduct reflecting the era of democracy."

Dissident Sentenced to Seven Years in Prison

SK2002065390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0434 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 20 (YONHAP)—The Seoul District Criminal Court sentenced Kim Hyon-chang, a prominent dissident, to seven years in prison Tuesday for contacting anti-government organizations abroad.

Kim, 40, head of the Foreign Relations Department of the National Democratic Alliance of Korea, was arrested by the Agency for National Security Planning last August.

Kim was convicted of communicating with the pro-Pyongyang Korea Democratic Unification Association in Japan and a similar anti-Seoul body in Europe, sending and receiving facsimiles.

The prosecution had demanded 10 years' imprisonment for Kim.

The court, convicting Kim of illegal communications and leaking state secrets, said the sentence was the minimum it can set under the National Security Law.

South To Use Locally Produced Fuel in Reactor

SK1502064090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0535 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 15 (YONHAP)—The first nuclear fuel for use in pressurized water reactors to be produced in South Korea is to be loaded into an atomic power plant on Saturday, ushering in an era of self-reliance on the fuel in the country.

The 52 fuel rod assemblies to be fed into the Kori Power Plant's second reactor on the southeast coast were made by the state-run Korea Nuclear Fuel Co. (KNFC) last July and delivered to Korea Electric Power Corp. for quality and suitability tests, KNFC officials said Thursday.

One fuel rod assembly consists of some 3,700 parts and burns in the reactor for three or four years at a temperature of 320 degrees celsius under atmospheric pressure.

The technology is regarded as the key for safe operation of reactors and has a far-reaching influence on other atomic energy technologies.

Only 10 countries besides Korea out of the 26 nations that operate nuclear power plants have the technology to produce fuel rods, the officials said.

KNFC will produce some 140 tons of nuclear fuel for use in pressurized water reactors at its fabrication plant, which has an annual production capacity of 200 tons, or enough to supply all of Korea's nuclear plants, they said.

Observation Satellite To Upgrade Technology

SK1602090590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0833 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 16 (YONHAP)—An observation satellite built with South Korean technology will be put into orbit in 1993, Science and Technology Minister Yi Sang-hui said Friday [16 February]. In a report to President No Tae-u, Yi said his ministry hopes to upgrade Korean technology to the level of the world's seven most advanced countries by the end of the 1990s.

The satellite will analyze the air surrounding the Korean peninsula, explore natural resources and collect information on agriculture and fishing, he said. Development of the satellite is part of the ministry's 10-year satellite development project.

The 80-billion won (116 million U.S. dollars) project also includes joint development of a rocket with foreign countries by 1996 and launching a satellite with a rocket developed in Korea by 1999. The satellite, to weigh between 200 and 400 kilograms, will be launched from an airborne platform flying at an altitude of 12 kilometers aboard a U.S.-built Pegasus rocket, Yi said.

Launching a satellite from midair is a cost-saving new method that obviates the need for a huge launch site, ministry officials explained. The orbiting satellite will provide valuable information for the development of national land and other resources. So far, Korea has been completely dependent upon foreign satellites for such information.

The project will also help Korea acquire up-to-date technology such as highly sophisticated observation equipment and computer technologies, which are a must to analyze information beamed down by the satellite from its orbit about 500 kilometers above the earth. Keeping the satellite in a designated orbit or changing the orbit from Earth is also an important ability, they said.

The Korea Research Institute of Aerospace, which was set up last October, will coordinate the project for the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, the Defense Development Agency, universities and industry. In the initial stages of the project, the institute plans to engage in joint research with agencies in advanced countries such as the United States, Japan and France to induce sophisticated aerospace technology.

Other long-term projects of the ministry include the development of artificial intelligence that can communicate with children by 1996 and the development of a Short-Range Takeoff and Landing (STOL) aircraft and a battery-powered vehicle by 1999.

Korean Carriers To Ship Natural Gas Imports

SK1502065490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0540 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 15 (YONHAP)—South Korean carriers will begin shipping some of the nation's imports of liquified natural gas (LNG) in 1993 under a new contract that revokes Indonesia's shipment right, the Korea Maritime and Port Administration (KMPA) said Thursday.

The Energy and Resources Ministry has decided to clear the way for direct shipments by Korean companies by renewing its contract with Indonesia, Korea's sole LNG supplier, on a free-on-board basis instead of the current cost, insurance and freight terms.

Korea has imported 2 million tons of LNG per annum from Indonesia since 1987 to meet surging demand for the economical and pollution-free fuel.

Since Korean shipping lines currently lack the specialized vessels to transport LNG, KMPA and the ministry will select by the year's end a line with the capital to acquire LNG shipping know-how and buy a vessel by 1993.

Construction of an LNG carrier takes at least 42 months and costs some 250 million U.S. dollars.

LNG shipment is projected to be one of the two most lucrative business for Korean carriers along with steel shipment, because transportation accounts for 30 percent of the import price, which is now 175 dollars per ton.

Authorities Keep Watch on Illegal Workers

SK1502040690 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 15 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] Immigration authorities have beefed up surveillance on foreigners suspected of engaging in illegal work in Korea, the Justice Minister said yesterday.

The tight control has been taken to curb the ever-increasing trend of illegal employment activities by foreigners, especially from Asian countries.

According to the Immigration Bureau, a total of 6,876 Asian nationals are here on short- and long-term visas.

Of them, 1,428 persons are suspected of working here with tourist visas, 420 of overstay, and 360 of frequent entries without special reasons.

Immigration officials said a number of recent visits by Asian nationals have been aimed at obtaining jobs.

Last month, 85 foreigners were depatriated for violating the Immigration Act. More than half of them were Filipinos found to be working at factories, farms and places requiring mere menial labor.

Ministry statistics show a 75-percent rise in illegal job activities by foreigners from 257 in 1988 to 450 last year.

Special task forces watching over overstay or illegal job activities by foreigners will be set up at immigration offices, a ministry spokesman said.

Those found to be overstaying or engaging in work with tourist visas will be subject to fines and depatriated.

The ministry is also considering rewriting the provisions to give levy penalties on Korean nationals who illegally hire foreigners.

Under the current law, foreign offenders of visa regulations and Korean employers face a fine of only up to 1 million won.

Meanwhile, Kimpo Airport Immigration Office said seven Philippine nationals have been placed under detention for questioning on charges of violating the Immigration Act.

Burma

Aung San Suu Kyi's Exclusion Confirmed

OW1702121390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0901 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Yangon [Rangoon], Feb. 17 KYODO—The banning of Aung San Suu Kyi, the best known and most powerful opposition leader in Myanmar [Burma], from running in upcoming elections was confirmed on Saturday, when her name did not appear on the list of approved candidates released by electoral authorities. Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the National League for Democracy, the largest opposition party, is the 44-year-old daughter of Gen. Aung San, who led the country then known as Burma to independence in 1948.

Suu Kyi had earlier been ruled ineligible to run in the May 27 election by the government-controlled Electoral Commission, which cited alleged links to a banned student rebel group and claimed she owed allegiance to a foreign country. Suu Kyi is married to a Briton. However, the banning decision was never officially announced, and the electoral decision said it would only be formalized when the list of candidates was posted.

Suu Kyi was put under house arrest last July accused of subversion by the military government of which she has been an outspoken critic. No formal charges have since been laid against Suu Kyi, but in January the co-leader of her party, Tin U, was sentenced to three years hard labor on charges of subversion. Also in January the country's last democratically elected Prime Minister, U Nu, was put under house arrest and banned from campaigning.

In 1988, Myanmar briefly attracted worldwide attention when led by students, millions of people staged massive street demonstrations to demand democracy and the end of authoritarian rule. The demonstrations were crushed in September by a military crackdown.

Diplomats Say Opposition Leaders Detained

BK1702050890 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Burma's military rulers have detained at least 25 opposition parliamentary candidates and hundreds of other dissidents in the lead up to promised elections, Western diplomats in Rangoon said yesterday.

All 25 candidates had been held since February 8. Most are members of the leading opposition group, the National League for Democracy, said the diplomats who asked not to be named.

They said the candidates all had registered to run in Rangoon constituencies in the election scheduled for May 27, which will be the first multiparty vote since 1960.

It was not clear for how long the candidates would be detained, or what charges they faced, if any, said the diplomats, who told AP in Bangkok in a telephone interview.

They said several hundred other dissidents had been detained since November, including many young supporters of the National League.

The National League has been hardest hit by the military junta's attempts to muzzle dissent. The junta seized power in September 1988, after troops crushed a mass uprising for democracy by killing hundreds of peaceful demonstrators.

In July last year it placed Aung San Suu Kyi, general secretary of the National League under house arrest and subsequently barred her from the poll. It charged she had contacts with banned rebel groups.

Also barred were Ms Suu Kyi's opposition partner Tin U, who was sentenced to three years imprisonment for subversion, and the last democratically elected prime minister, U Nu, who was also put under house arrest.

The diplomats said the total number of people detained since the military takeover could be several thousand, but accurate estimates were impossible.

The government has admitted it has detained over 1,000 people in Rangoon since seizing power. It insists none are held for political reasons, but for criminal offences such as inciting unrest or having contacts with rebels.

The junta rules with the help of martial law, which bans gatherings of more than five persons, and a nighttime curfew. It has promsied to lift such restrictions before the end of the month to allow political parties to campaign for the election.

Western governments have called for the release of detained opposition figures and said the polls will not be free and fair unless they are permitted to run.

Meanwhile, a government spokesman yesterday said Burmese troops captured a jungle camp of ethnic Kachin insurgents in northern Burma this week in a drive against ethnic rebels.

In a UPI report the spokesman also denied reports that government troops this month intruded into Thailand during attacks on other ethnic insurgent groups.

The camp at Khasan, about 50 km northwest of Mogaung town in the northernmost Kachin state, fell with no serious resistance, said Col Than Tun, spokesman for the military government.

Than Tun said the troops found stocks of white powder stored in plastic bags, bottles and other containers.

"We are checking if this powder is heroin, he said.

The spokesman said 6 kg of heroin had been found at two Kachin strongholds in 1987.

The Kachin group has denied charges that it is involved in the narcotics trade insisting it is fighting only for democracy and regional autonomy.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir on Western Investment, Eastern Europe

BK1902143990 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0836 GMT 19 Feb 90

[By Kuah Guan Oo]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 19 (BERNAMA)—Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed on Monday called for collective action by Asian nations to press for investments from Western Europe and the U.S. which are now focusing all their attention on Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

"It is obvious that there are opportunities in Eastern Europe and if they were to only focus their attention there, they can't direct their attention here," he said in a five-nation "satellite summit" of heads of governments.

The other participants were President Cory Aquino of the Philippines, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun who represented President No Tae-u of South Korea and Foreign Minister Inder Gujral who represented Prime Minister V.P. Singh of India.

The summit, telecast live, was the first organised by the Press Foundation of Asia which is holding its 4th One Asia Assembly in Manila.

Dr. Mahathir, who spoke from Angkasapuri, later told Malaysian newsmen there would be competition from Eastern Europe for Western European and American investments.

He cited the ASEAN-European Community ministerial meeting last week as an example where Western European countries were not paying attention to this part of the world.

"Many of the foreign ministers of the powerful (European) nations did not attend the meeting, showing that they were preoccupied with Eastern Europe," he said.

Dr. Mahathir, whose answers drew applause from the audience in Manila, said he saw the Western world's focus on developments in Eastern Europe as a threat to developing countries in Asia, rather than Eastern Europe being an economic opportunity.

"Given their (Western world) nearer contacts and knowledge of Eastern Europe, they would take advantage of the situation whereas we are far away and not that knowledgeable (to take advantage of the economic opportunities)," he added.

"With their preoccupation (with Eastern Europe), they would relegate to the background their relations with other developing countries," he said.

The Manila audience applauded when Dr. Mahathir challenged a member of the panel of prominent journalists from Asia who asked about the dangers of mixing religion with civil government.

He said, in Malaysia, most people are religious and their views are bound to have an impact on national policies.

He added the question should be how to deal with the views of the extremists. "In any case, whether one listens or not, there is no guarantee that there would be no conflict if religion is separated from the secular government," he said.

He said the perception of separation of state and religion is a Western ideal but he has chosen the Eastern interpretation of this value.

"If we are different from the West, it doesn't mean that we are wrong. We should not be totally dominated by Western thinking and it doesn't mean that we are always wrong," he added.

Moderator Bernard Kalb, an old Asia hand, noted that Dr. Mahathir has won the first round of applause and asked Mrs. Aquino and Encik [Mr.] Gujral how they see it in terms of an "independent Asia."

Mrs. Aquino said they would naturally like to be independent of the West but noted that Asian countries tended to compete among themselves, even within the ASEAN itself.

"I guess we need to strike a balance between independence and the need to cooperate," she added.

Encik Gujral said India is keen to cooperate and be friendly although it has its own way of thinking. "We are keen to catch up, especially in terms of economic development," he added.

On lessons to be learnt from the 80s as Asia enters the 90s, Dr. Mahathir said the 80s showed that developing countries in Asia can emulate Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore in their economic development.

"In other words, we can reach their stage of economic development."

Deadline Extended for CPM To Surrender Arms

BK1802043590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0223 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 18 (AFP)—Malaysia has given members of the banned Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) an extra month to surrender their arms, a newspaper reported Sunday.

The English-language SUNDAY STAR quoted Army Chief Yaakob Mohamed Zain as telling a news conference on Saturday that the deadline was extended to March 2 to give the CPM more time to contact members still hiding in the jungle.

The CPM signed an agreement with the Malaysian and Thai Governments on December 2 last year to end 41 years of insurgency that claimed hundreds of lives along the Malaysia-Thai border.

Under the agreement, the CPM members, numbering some 1,100, were required to give up their arms on February 2 and be resettled in newly-constructed villages along the Thai side of the border.

Defense Industry Cooperation With ROK Viewed

BK1902111890 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0947 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 19 (BERNAMA) - Malaysia will study the viability of technological cooperation with South Korea in developing Malaysia's defence industry.

Malaysian Defence Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen said the South Korean Government had stated its willingness to assist Malaysia in the proposed defence industry.

Asked on the areas of possible technological cooperation, he said the framework should be studied by the civilian officials of the ministry.

The South Korean Army has been assisting the Malaysian armed forces since the early 1980s in upgrading the techniques of unarmed combat which was made compulsory for all its personnel, he told reporters after receiving South Korean Army Chief Gen Yi Chong-ku at the Defence Ministry here Monday [19 February].

Gen Lee, who arrived here with his wife two days ago, is on a five-day official visit.

Rithauddeen also said Malaysia has not received any request from the United Nations to send its troops for peacekeeping duties in Cambodia, adding that as in previous tours of duties under the UN flag, the Malaysian Army was prepared to send its men for such assignments to any part of the world including war-torn Cambodia.

Iranian Mission Led by Musavi Arrives 19 Feb

BK1902101090 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0902 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 19 (BERNAMA)—Iran welcomes greater Malaysian participation in its economic development both by the government and private sectors, Mir Hoseyn Musavi, political adviser to the Iranian president, said here Monday.

Musavi, who leads a six-member delegation from Iran for a four-day visit here, said this would further strengthen ties between the two countries.

Speaking at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Subang, he said his delegation would seek ways of expanding bilateral political, economic, and social relations with Malaysia, especially with the implementation of Iran's five-year plan to rehabilitate its economy following the end of the Iran-Iraq war.

Musavi, who is a former prime minister, said the delegation will call on Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamed on current developments in Iran and on the Iran-Iraq peace talks.

He said the Iranian Government wanted the United Nations Resolution 598 to be fully implemented without any changes.

Singapore

Lee Kuan Yew Interviewed on Perestroyka

BK1602150190 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 16 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Any setback in Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroyka and glasnost policies would create "grave misgivings and tensions" in the world, Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew has warned.

The international tension would result from having turmoil in a great power like the Soviet Union which has nuclear weapons, he said in an interview with the Soviet news agency TASS on Tuesday [15 February].

"Supposing something disastrous were to happen and President Gorbachev's opponents, capitalising or exploiting the resentments at the various Soviet republics rising-up in nationalist opposition to Moscow ... the leadership changes direction, then I see once again very grave misgivings and grave tensions," he said. "So we all have interest in a successful and peaceful outcome to perestroyka and glasnost."

But if Mr. Gorbachev's policies succeeded, it would lead to a more peaceful and prosperous world, he told TASS correspondent Vladimir Kolavenko. "I hope that perestroyka and glasnost succeed," he said.

"A lot of money that has gone into armaments will go into economic exchanges between nations. This will lead to a more peaceful and a more abundant world. If that is the situation, then I think Singapore will prosper."

On Singapore-Soviet ties, he said relations were "very good"—the result of changes in the international situation arising out of Mr. Gorbachev's new policies.

He said that fact that Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov was coming here and that Singapore was receiving him was "an indication of the totally changed relationship".

The Soviet PM is due to arrive here today [16 February] on a two-day official visit at the invitation of Mr. Lee.

He will be accompanied by Mrs Ryzkhova, Mr. Ivan Stepanovich Silayev, the Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers, and top officials.

He will pay a courtesy call on President Wee Kim Wee, meet First Deputy Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and attend a dinner hosted by Mr.Lee and Mrs. Lee at the Istana [Palace] tonight.

Replying to a question on how the Soviet Union could participate in the economic growth of the Asia-Pacific region, Mr. Lee said it would first have to become a free market economy.

Noting that Singapore-Soviet trade had been very limited and done through government agencies Mr. Lee said:

"The products cannot meet the competition of the market because they are not suited for the market. So, the first step will have to be progress in perestroyka into free market products."

When asked whether the Soviet Union could participate in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, he said: "Yes. The day you can join OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development), that day you can join APEC."

ASEAN Issues in Post-Cambodian Period Viewed

BK1602152990 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 16 Feb 90 p 28

[Text] ASEAN will face both political and economic issues after the Cambodian problem, which dominated its agenda in the past, had been resolved, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew said.

These issues, he added, would arise out of the great changes that had taken place in the world, with the easing of East-West tensions.

In an interview with the TASS news agency on Tuesday [13 February], he said the Western countries would no longer need ASEAN on its side, now that the Soviet threat does not exist.

This would create "a new political environment in which the political background is as important as the economic issues".

"That creates a new environment for ASEAN, because when they were united, having to face a Soviet threat, they favoured us because we were on their side. Now they don't need to have us on their side because there's nobody against them."

On the Cambodian problem, Mr. Lee said it would be solved when an interim UN administration was formed and held free elections.

"I believe that after a few months of both sides, the CGDK (Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea), and the Hun Sen (regime), trying to maneuvre to get advantage, there will be, I hope, an interim UN administration that will conduct free and fair elections. That will solve the Cambodian issue," he said.

"Once the Cambodian issue is resolved in that way by free and fair elections, the problem is no longer here to hold the Indochinese countries apart from the ASEAN countries."

On Singapore's economic policies, Mr. Lee said there would be no change to its free market approach, but the details would change.

"Our policies are free market policies. So there's no basic change on principle.... We have done what the Japanese in a way did in the 1960s and early '70s. In turn now, the Malaysians, the Thais are doing what we did in the '70s and '80s ," he said.

"They have bigger populations and more resources. Unless we move upwards to higher value-added work and more sophisticated technology, we will be squeezed out."

Replying to a question on the Asia-Pacific region, Mr. Lee referred to the November meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum in Canberra, saying it was "an important stage towards closer consultation and coordination".

Reportage on Visit of Soviet Prime Minister

Help With Cambodia Urged

BK1602162690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1613 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Singapore, Feb 16 (AFP)—Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew on Friday urged Moscow to use its influence with Vietnam to promote a peaceful solution to the Cambodian conflict.

Speaking at a dinner honoring visiting Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov, Mr. Lee welcomed recent policy changes in Moscow and said Singapore was looking forward to Soviet participation in Asia-Pacific growth. He called meanwhile for a continuing U.S. presence as "essential for peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region."

Mr. Lee and Mr. Ryzhkov had a private meeting shortly after the Soviet leader arrived on a 24-hour visit, the last stop on a three-nation tour that earlier took him to Thailand and Australia.

On Cambodia, Mr. Lee said: "We sincerely hope that the Soviet Union will help to snuff out these last embers by helping to persuade Vietnam that a new era has begun in the world. Vietnam should wind up its unfortunate involvement in Cambodia ... and should instead work with ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) to build a better life for its people," Mr. Lee said. "Singapore is ready to play its part in Indochina once the Cambodian conflict is resolved by an agreement on a U.N. interim administration followed by a U.N.-supervised free and fair election," he said.

Mr. Lee, the only prime minister staunchly anticommunist Singapore has known since independence in 1965, said relations with Moscow had taken a step forward with Mr. Ryzhkov's visit, the first ever by a Soviet premier. "We are ready to make a serious commitment both to improve our economic cooperation and to support perestroyka," he said. But he cautioned that future regional ties with Moscow "presuppose that there are no sudden political and military disruptions."

Mr. Lee described the United States as "a Pacific power whose continued presence will reinforce the stability upon which the Pacific economies will grow." He added: "The continued presence of the United States is essential for peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region."

Mr. Ryzhkov is accompanied by a more than 100-strong delegation, including Deputy Premier Ivan Stepanovich Silayev and Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev as well as senior trade officials.

Ryzhkov Urges Bigger Soviet Role

BK1702075890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0737 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Singapore, Feb 17 (AFP)—Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov called here Saturday for the Soviet Union to be included in a new Asia-Pacific economic cooperation forum proposed last year. Mr. Ryzhkov, winding up a three-nation Asia-Pacific tour, stressed the Soviet desire for enhanced economic ties with the region, "not just bilateral relationships but multilateral relationships."

Economic issues predominated in Mr. Ryzhkov's 24-hour visit to Singapore, the first ever by a Soviet prime minister. He earlier visited Thailand and Australia.

Complaining that Moscow had so far been kept out of the Asia-Pacific forum, Mr. Ryzhkov said that during his current tour he had stressed "the need for the Soviet Union to take some part in that new development." There is "room both for Soviet and for American participation," and without the Soviet Union such cooperation was "not complete," he said.

In November, Australia hosted talks on the forum involving the United States, Canada, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand and the six-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN-grouping Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand).

Addressing a news conference through an interpreter, Mr. Ryzhkov said the non-convertibility of the rouble was a key obstacle to full Soviet integration in the world economy. Moscow also needed to stimulate the export trade and to make foreign capital investment more lucrative, he said.

To keep the Soviet Union from lagging behind economically, "we need a new political concept. We need greater flow of information. We need broader communication links," he added.

Mr. Ryzhkov expressed interest in setting up more joint ventures. He said there were currently 1,400 joint ventures operating on Soviet territory with "forms of payment beneficial to both sides."

Suggested joint ventures with Singapore and other nations of the region were in tourism, electronics and biotechnology, Mr. Ryzhkov said.

Earlier Saturday, he met Singapore businessmen to discuss prospects for joint ventures. A Soviet spokesman said the businessmen had expressed special interest in hotel investments in the Soviet Union.

Mr. Ryzhkov meanwhile said he had found his hosts in the region receptive to Soviet efforts to build on human and political contacts. "This of course is due to perestroyka," he said, using the Russian word meaning restructuring and a cornerstone of current Kremlin policies.

Mr. Ryzhkov said he had invited Prime Minister Lee and First Deputy Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong to visit Moscow.

Holds News Conference, Departs

BK1702151190 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] The Soviet Union has welcomed the move by Indonesia and Singapore toward restoring diplomatic relations with China. The visiting Soviet prime minister, Mr. Nikolay Ryzhkov, told a news conference that such a state of relations between China and countries in Southeast Asia will lead to stability and cooperation in the region.

On the Asia-Pacific economic cooperation initiated by Australia, Mr. Ryzhkov said the Soviet Union would like to be part of the consultative arrangement. He said otherwise a new form of cooperation will not be complete. But he added that only time will tell whether the Soviet Union would be an observer or a participant in the arrangement.

Mr. Ryzhkov said during his talks with the leaders in Thailand and Singapore, he indicated that Moscow seemed to be kept apart from this new development. He added that there must be a reduction of foreign military presence in the Asia-Pacific region so that the talks on economic arrangements could be effective.

He said the 21st century belongs to the Asia-Pacific region and the Soviet Union wants to (?gain) from the economic experience of the countries in the region. He said the impediments in expanding Soviet trade with foreign countries have to be overcome first. These include the nonconvertability of the Soviet currency and greater flow of information on the countries in the region.

On bilateral relations with Singapore, Mr. Ryzhkov said his country has been studying the experience gained by Singapore in taking advantage of the international division of labor. He said this is something the Soviet Union may want to do.

Mr. Ryzhkov said he and Mr. Lee Kuan Yew had agreed on the importance of developing multilateral relations and being involved in the integration of the economy, especially in the West. The Soviet leader said the integration was a reality and strained relations would mean ending up in a critical situation.

Mr. Ryzhkov cited some potential areas of cooperation between the Soviet Union and Singapore. This includes international tourism, trade and industry, electronics, aerospace and biotechnology, construction technology, and telecommunications.

Mr. Ryzhkov also said invitations have been extended to Mr. Lee Kuan Yew and the first deputy prime minister, Mr. Goh Chok Tong, to visit Moscow.

The Soviet prime minister has left Singapore after a two-day visit. Mr. and Mrs. Ryzhkov were sent off by the communications and information minister, Dr. Yeo Ning Hong, and Mrs. Yeo.

Cambodia

Hun Sen To Talk to Sihanouk in Thailand 'Soon'

BK1902134090 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 19 Feb 90

["Communique"]

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency Chatchai Chunhawan, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, will soon pay a visit to the Kingdom of Thailand.

The comrade chairman of the Council of Ministers will be accompanied by Comrade Hor Nam Hong, minister of the Council of Ministers Cabinet; Comrade Choam Prasit, deputy minister of the Council of Ministers Cabinet; Comrade Sok An, deputy foreign minister; Comrade Ouch Kim-an, chief of Foreign Ministry's Political Affairs General Department; Comrade Chum Bunrong, chief of Foreign Ministry's Press Department; and a number of cadres. During this visit, the comrade chairman of the Council of Ministers will hold talks with Samdech Sihanouk in Bangkok in an effort to seek a political solution to the Cambodian problem.

Further on Upcoming Meeting

BK1902033990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen will meet for the first time in Thailand on Wednesday [21 February], a senior Cambodian resistance official said yesterday.

The meeting will be hosted by Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan at his Soi Ratchakhru residence, Prince Norodom Rannaridh Sihanouk's son told reporters in Phatthaya.

Premier Hun Sen is expected to arrive in Bangkok tonight.

The two Cambodian leaders have met a number of times previously, but have failed to break the deadlock over a peace settlement for the war-torn country.

Rannaridh said his father had cancelled a scheduled visit to Singapore today. Sihanouk has instead invited Singapore's Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng to visit the zone in Cambodia now controlled by his Sihanoukist National Army (ANS), he said.

If the Singaporean minister accepts, he will become the first foreign minister to visit resistance-controlled areas in Cambodia.

The young prince told reporters during a two-day meeting of representatives of Sihanouk's overseas supporters that his father would end his 20-year exile by moving permanently to the ANS-held zone opposite Surin Province later this month. It was not known where the prince would stay.

Sihanouk, during a speech at the meeting said he should be addressed as President of Cambodia inside Cambodia from now on.

Sihanouk also disclosed for the first time that China has provided him an average of US$300,000 per year for his "patriotic mission."

He said he would accept talks with other Cambodian factions and a new round of talks with Hun Sen, at any date and place, and would meet with any Soviet or Vietnamese envoys without any conditions, no matter what their ranks might be.

In the past, Sihanouk said he would not meet any representative of Vietnam or its Soviet backer.

Concerning the recent proposals for UN administration of Cambodia, Sihanouk suggested that UN peacekeeping forces should do the job of disarming all the Cambodian forces instead of Phnom Penh's proposal of a "ceasefire and standstill.

If Hun Sen turns down this proposal, the prince said it would be important that all of the Cambodian factions' armed forces be reduced to 10,000 armed men confined to their barracks.

Sihanouk Talks About Meeting

BK2002023490 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1300 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Prince Norodom Sihanouk has initiated a meeting with Hun Sen which will be held in a couple of days. The prime minister has agreed to host that meeting in

Bangkok. Today, Prince Sihanouk gave a special interview on the topics that will be discussed with Hun Sen in the search for a solution to the Cambodian problem.

[Begin Sihanouk recording in progress, in English] ...and Prime Minister His Excellency Chatchai Chunhawan to receive Hun Sen to have a new round of talks with Hun Sen. I used to have rounds of talks with him previously in France, but now I think that Thailand—Bangkok, the prestigious capital of Thailand—as the venue for Hun Sen-Sihanouk meeting, it is the best venue. So I am very happy to see that Prime Minister Chatchai is willing to host the talks between Hun Sen and Sihanouk aimed at facilitating the peace process in favor of Cambodia, our homeland, and we are going in Bangkok to exchange views about all the essential aspects of the so-called Cambodian problem. And I hope that we will be able to get Hun Sen and myself to achieve some progress in the way toward a comprehensive settlement of the very complicated Cambodian problem. If we, the Cambodians, we wish our goodwill, we work hard together in the search for such a settlement, I think that the international community will also be successful in its search for an equitable solution to the problem of Cambodia.

At least in Bangkok, we should—Hun Sen and Sihanouk, myself—we should achieve rapprochement of our view points, our stance. It appears unfortunately that we have not the same views, not the same approach to different aspects of the problem, not the same stance. So, the purpose of the meeting between Hun Sen and Sihanouk, with Prime Minister Chatchai as the host in Bangkok, is to achieve serious rapprochement of our views in order to have a chance in the near future to overcome the main difficulties which are separating the Cambodian resistance and the regime of Phnom Penh. [end recording]

Prince Sihanouk also reiterated that Vietnamese aggression is the cause of the Cambodian problem. He believes that his meeting with Hun Sen on 21 February will contribute to the success of the informal meeting in Jakarta at the end of this month.

Fighting on 'Possible Route'

BK1902061690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0547 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Bangkok, Feb 19 (AFP)—Fighting was reported Monday on a northwest Cambodian highway which is a possible route for Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen to come to Thailand. Mr. Hun Sen is expected in Thailand this week for meetings here with Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Reporters in the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet said they heard artillery fire from the direction of Highway 5, which runs from Poipet just across the Cambodian border to Sisophon some 50 kilometers (30 miles) farther east. Thai military sources confirmed the fighting.

The road is held by Phnom Penh troops but under frequent attack from guerrillas who have seized territory in this region since Vietnam ended a decade-long military occupation of Cambodia in September.

Mr. Hun Sen, who entered Thailand from Poipet in September on his fourth trip to Thailand to meet Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan, was expected to meet Prince Sihanouk in Bangkok on Wednesday, a member of the prince's entourage has said. But he said there was no confirmation yet from Mr. Hun Sen. The talks would come ahead of international talks in Jakarta February 26-28.

Mr. Hun Sen heads a Vietnam-backed regime installed after Vietnamese troops toppled a notorious Khmer Rouge regime in 1979, while Prince Sihanouk recently stepped down as the head of a tripartite guerrilla resistance.

The prince is now staying in Thailand on his way back to living in Cambodia after being in exile for two decades. In a communique on Sunday, Prince Sihanouk said he wanted to ease the plight of Cambodians living in areas "liberated" by resistance guerrillas. "I wish to henceforth live with and personally take care of my people in the ANS (Sihanoukist National Army) zones, my people from whom I have been separated for many years," he said.

"The population of the recently liberated zones has been left in misery and tragic destitution by the (Vietnamese) and the Phnom Penh regime," he said. "The ANS, without me, does not have the means to solve the problems affecting our people... [no closing quotation mark as received] He said he would use a large part of Chinese financial assistance of 300,000 dollars a year to help his people "in the social field."

The prince heads a resistance faction allied in a coalition with the non-communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front headed by former Premier Son Sann and the Chinese-backed Marxist Khmer Rouge. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which groups Thailand, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore, is the main backer of the U.N.-recognized resistance coalition.

Prince Sihanouk, commenting on his recent decision to change the name of his coalition government, its national flag and anthem, said this was [word indistinct] his status from "chief of a government in exile" to "president of Cambodia inside Cambodia." "Such a change can give to our government, which certain Western governments want to expel from the United Nations in favor of the Phnom Penh regime...legitimacy and legality," he said.

"A powerful U.N. peace keeping force should be sent to Cambodia to (achieve) a cease-fire...(and) U.N. force should proceed to completely disarm all Cambodian armed forces," he said. "If Hun Sen's faction rejects my proposal of general disarmament, a proposal which the Khmer Rouge and their great friend (China) have accepted and support, it would be necessary to reduce each of our four Cambodian armies to 10,000 men restricted to barracks," the prince said. He added that his faction would participate in all meetings or international conferences on Cambodia even if the Khmer Rouge refuse to participate.

The Khmer Rouge, which had earlier refused to join talks, has confirmed its participation at the forthcoming Jakarta meeting. The faction was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Cambodians during its four-year reign of terror that ended with the Vietnamese invasion.

Hun Sen Departs for Talks

BK2002045890 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0416 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 20—Cambodian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hun Sen left here this morning for Bangkok, Thailand, at the invitation of Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan.

Prime Minister Hun Sen was accompanied by Cabinet Minister Hor Nam Hong, Cabinet Deputy Minister Cham Prasit, Deputy Foreign Minister Sok An, and other officials. This is Prime Minister Hun Sen's third trip to Thailand to hold talks with Thai Prime Minister Chatchai. In September last year, Prime Minister Hun Sen entered Thailand from the Cambodian western border checkpoint of Poipet.

The third meeting comes ahead of the international meeting to be convened in Jakarta from Feb. 26-28, the first since Cambodian parleys broke down in Paris last August.

During his visit to Bangkok, Prime Minister Hun Sen is also scheduled to have his sixth round of talks with Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Their fifth round of talks took place on July 24-26 at Rossy-en-France near Paris and La Celle-Saint-Cloud, France.

Government Recapture of Svay Chek Unconfirmed

BK2002151690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1505 GMT 20 Feb 90

[By Thewaphinan Thewakun]

[Excerpts] Bangkok, Feb 20 (AFP)—A Thai general will fly to Laos Wednesday [21 February] to meet Cambodian Premier Hun Sen and accompany him back to Thailand where the premier will meet resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk, a source said Tuesday. General Phat Akkhanitbut, Thai Armed Forces' inspector general department chief and emissary for Acting Supreme Commander General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, is due to return here from Vientiane with Mr. Hun Sen at 10:00 (03:00 GMT), a source close to Gen. Chawalit said.

On the eve of Mr. Hun Sen's visit there were unconfirmed reports that his regime in Phnom Penh had stepped up military operations against the resistance in northwestern Cambodia. [passage omitted] On the eve of the Hun Sen-Sihanouk meeting, the Phnom Penh regime has stepped up its military operations against the resistance in Cambodia's northwestern province of Banteay Meanchey, Cambodian sources on the Thai-Cambodian border said Tuesday.

The source, who requested anonymity, said Phnom Penh forces have since Tuesday assaulted and re-taken the strategic village of Svay Chek. The village was captured on December 5 by non-communist guerrillas loyal to Prince Sihanouk and of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) headed by former Prime Minister Son Sann.

Svay Chek is about 18 kilometres north of Banteay Meanchey's provincial seat of Sisophon, the main supply position of the Phnom Penh forces in northwestern Cambodia. The report has not been confirmed by Cambodian resistance forces or Thai military authorities stationed on the Thai-Cambodian border.

Phnom Penh had thrown a 2,000-strong force mobilized from Sisophon—backed by two truck-mounted BM-21 "Stalin organ" multi-fire rocket launchers and five Soviet-built T-54 tanks—into the Svay Chek battle, the source said. Svay Chek was apparently only "thinly defended" by the guerrillas, the source added. [passage omitted]

Heng Samrin, Hun Sen Receive U.S. Senator

BK1902070890 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] On the morning of 18 February, a U.S. Senate delegation led by Senator Charles Robb, Democrat, visited the State of Cambodia to assess the political, economic, and military situation, and to provide this information to the U.S. Government. During the trip, the U.S. delegation was most cordially received by Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of State, and Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers.

During the talks, the State of Cambodia's leadership informed the visitor about the general situation, particularly the military aspect, and about all of the aspects of a political solution to ensure genuine peace in Cambodia based on the proposals by Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan and Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans and on the Namibia formula. The talks focused on the UN role and prevention of the genocidal Pol Pot regime's return.

Replying, Charles Robb expressed thanks for the reception by the State of Cambodia's party and state and paid a great deal of attention to the information given to him by the Cambodian leadership. Charles Robb fully agreed with the Cambodian leaders, saying that the Pol Pot regime should be prevented from returning to Cambodia. Charles Robb promised to convey all of this information to the U.S. Government, Senate, Congress, and people for a better understanding of the State of Cambodia. Charles Robb expressed the hope of visiting the State of Cambodia again to further promote better understanding between the two countries.

During this trip, the U.S. Senate delegation also visited the Tuol Sleng museum of genocide and the former royal palace museum. That same evening, the delegation returned home on a special American plane.

Supreme Soviet Group Meets Heng Samrin, Leaves

BK1702133990 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1106 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 17—A delegation of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR led by G.I. Usmanov, people's deputy and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, left here Wednesday [14 February] after a two-day official visit to Cambodia.

While here, the Soviet delegation was received by Heng Samrin, general secretary of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea [PRPK] Central Commitee and president of the State Council. It held talks with the delegation of the National Assembly of the State of Cambodia led by its vice-chairman Mat Ly, Politburo member of the P.R.P.K. Central Committee. Besides, it also called a press conference on the latest developments in the Soviet Union.

The delegation visited "Tuol Sleng" museum of genocide, the national museum and the former royal palace.

Heng Samrin Reaffirms Commitment To Fight

BK1802093590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Speech by Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party, KPRP, Central Committee and chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of State, at inauguration of a secondary school in Kompong Svay commune, Kien Svay District, Kandal Province, on 17 February—recorded]

[Text] Greetings to the clergy, the meeting, and beloved compatriots: At this solemn occasion, along with compatriots in Kompong Svay commune, Kien Svay District, Kandal Province, on behalf of the party, state, front, and in my own name, I would like to express happiness and great joy at taking part in the inauguration of this school, an achievement among many others of the district. [applause]

I would like to take this opportunity to express sincere admiration for the great and fruitful efforts of all levels of the party and state authorities in the province for rallying the united forces of all ethnic groups, the clergy, educational staff, doctors, students, and pupils. In cooperation with the force of Cambodian residents abroad and various international humanitarian organizations, you have created a great force. And with the assistance of our party and state, you have made these achievements which directly benefit our village and district. [shouts of "Long live the glorious KPRP"]

What Kien Svay District has achieved is part of the great comprehensive achievement of our entire society and nation. This is realized with the efforts and countless sacrifices of our cadres, combatants, and people under the leadership of the party and state. This is also due to the assistance of friends the world over, particularly the direct assistance in fresh blood and flesh of Vietnamese comrades-in-arms who have been helping us since that most difficult day until our society and nation are strong enough for us to assume the tasks to defend and build the country and nation before withdrawing and returning home in late September last year.

The rebirth of our society and nation has generally pleased and been acclaimed by friends near and far and justice-loving people the world over. However, what people cannot understand is why the Pol Pot group, which is hated and feared by our entire people, is still trying to seize power and commit further crimes against the people and why Sihanouk and Son Sann did nothing to save the people while they were suffering under the Pol Pot regime. Now that the people are regaining their freedom and rights, one does not understand why Sihanouk and Son Sann have turned to colluding with the Pol Pot group to destroy the people. For us, there is nothing surprising. The concrete activities of the genocidal Pol Pot group and of Sihanouk and Son Sann are aimed only at taking revenge and plundering personal power and what our people have made efforts to build with sweat and blood.

Now we clearly realize that unfriendly forces and the three Cambodian reactionary groups have deliberately created successive obstacles aimed at blocking a political solution to the Cambodian problem. They still have illusions about their military attempts.

In the past, they demanded the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops. When Vietnam completely withdrew, they used the pretext of disguised Vietnamese troops to continue the civil war. At the Paris conference, they demanded that we accept a UN role. Now we have accepted a UN role. The demand by China, Pol Pot, and Sihanouk for the dissolution of our State of Cambodia has been generally considered by the entire world as unreasonable and most unjust for millions of Cambodians who have made great efforts to reach this point. Furthermore, our State of Cambodia has a complete infrastructure of state authorities, from central down to local levels, which can ensure the administration of the territory and ensure social order. Therefore, opinions in general think that if the State of Cambodia's machinery is dismantled, the result would be unpredictable confusion and unrest in society and the Pol Pot group would then take this opportunity to seize power again. And in the end, the country and nation will again experience destruction and suffering while Sihanouk and Son Sann can only shout protests from abroad. Therefore, we have no other choice than to continue fighting although we clearly know that war creates hardship and suffering inevitably. We continue fighting as owners of the land.

Experiences of the past nearly five months have clearly shown that we have the capability of defending ourselves. In particular, we have a just and correct war which is supported by the multitude of people and masses for the cause of national survival.

It is obvious that in our role as masters, we are responsible for the destiny of the country in every aspect. Along with continuing our cause to struggle through military means, our party and state are seeking every possibility to end this war through other means, including the continuation of our diplomatic struggle by holding aloft the banner of independence, peace, and national reconciliation. The goals and ideals of our party and state are to defend and fight at the same time while the enemy has only one goal: destroying the nation and taking revenge against us for their own power.

For this reason, our party and state lately took another step to show our goodwill to solve the Cambodian problem politically by recognizing the role of the United Nations provided that this organization respects the State of Cambodia's independence and sovereignty and that this organization remains neutral and unbiased. The United Nations should come to Cambodia not to control or give orders but to assist in solving the Cambodian problem. On this issue, generally speaking, public opinion has supported a UN role in solving the Cambodian problem. Although various parties have agreed on a UN role, there are still many big issues to be confronted. For us, we will do whatever is possible to create conditions for a solution. Whether we reach a solution or not, we will continue to make various countries realize our good intention: We want peace and not war. However, we want genuine peace, a peace that ensures the people's lives and social and national gains and ensures the nonreemergence of the genocidal regime. Only when we are strong in the military field and flexible in the diplomatic field can other countries understand us. Until now, because we have shown these two characters and also because this is our regime's ultimate truth, the prestige of our party and state has lately been further enhanced in the international arena.

In the past, various countries did not dare make contacts at government levels; many of them are in touch with us, but as nongovernmental organizations or as private citizens, because they did not want to appear to recognize us officially. However, the situation is more mature now. Our character is clearly emerging, particularly since the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia. Various countries have since started to send their men to Cambodia through state channels. This is the case of Great Britain, France, the United States, Australia, Japan, Canada, and Belgium.

For us, we want a solution to the Cambodian problem. We have done what we promised to do. We have withdrawn Vietnamese troops. It is the other parties which have not honored their promises and which continue to assist the reactionary Cambodians. Therefore, it is necessary for us to continue the diplomatic struggle to win international sympathy and get the international community to understand our just cause and stop providing aid to the reactionary Cambodians. This is within our aim to shorten the current war. [Shouts of "Long live the national reconciliation policy of the State of Cambodia's party and state. Long live."]

Therefore, in the immediate future, we should firmly grasp the following issues:

1. We are the masters of the country and nation. We are the defender of the cause for the rebirth of the nation while the enemy is the destroyer only seeking revenge and its own power. However, the enemy is encountering great difficulties on the battlefield. The determining factor on the battlefield is not the enemy's strength. The determining factor is our strength. No matter what, the enemy cannot reverse the situation.

2. Along with the military struggle, we should also promote the diplomatic struggle. We do this in order to find a genuine solution, or at least to get the international community to see our good intention so that it stops assisting the reactionary Cambodians. The purpose of this is to gradually shorten the current war and move toward completely ending it.

However, we should not rely on negotiations and forget the struggle because at these negotiations various parties have different goals. The enemy wants to gain benefits which it cannot get on the battlefield. Therefore, all compatriots should know that the upcoming talks are very tough because the enemy is still stubborn and will not easily accept our proposal if we do not break its forces on the battlefield. It is our firmness and strength on the battlefield, in every task, and within ourselves that will stop people from having illusions to topple us through military means. Therefore, we should be firm in our thinking, statement, and concrete activities to get people to respect our aspiration for peace. On the contrary, if we want peace but are not firm, if our morale is weak and we cannot differentiate benefits and losses in our statements, and if our unity is not good and our concrete activities go in different directions, the international community and those opposing us will take us lightly and will retain illusions and push the other side to topple us through every means—military, political, economic, and ideological—by penetrating deeply into our ranks and making us lose sight of our goal. Thus, in the immediate future, what should we do?

1. We should contribute to further building our Armed Forces. We should correctly implement laws relating to the motherland's defense and apply these laws equally. Cadres at higher levels should be models in this task. All of us should show concrete activities to implement the

slogan "Everything for the battlefield." We should link together sentiments and care for our cadres and combatants on the frontline battlefield. Those remaining in the rearguard—traders, artisans, other professionals, and the people in general—should contribute with the state authorities to providing assistance to our combatants' families and our forces by clearly realizing that we, in the rearguard, can live and earn our living peacefully because our cadres and combatants are defending us on the front.

2. In a situation in which the enemy has such perfidious schemes, the issue of solidarity and unity among us is very important and more so than at any other time. There should be solidarity among cadres, combatants, and people and solidarity among all strata of the people and among all ethnic groups by remembering that if solidarity is lacking, everything will be lost.

Compatriots who have gone through many regimes and eras still remember the bitter experiences of the past which destroyed solidarity and brought about anxiety and frightening destruction of lives, society, and the nation. Our party and state have policies to extend our people's rights and freedom to manage land, villages, and working fields, and freedom of faith. We have implemented policies on the nation's good customs and traditions and granted full rights and freedom to earn a living. Therefore, the state authorities and people should cooperate in implementing these policies well so that they benefit the entire society. Any obstacles, problems—large or small—should be discussed and solved together in harmony. Whether these can be solved or not, everyone should be informed about it. Unfounded resentment should be avoided. We should be together, unite, and carry out production tasks to solve everyday problems and earn a living to contribute to building and improving the national socioeconomic base, particularly in the education and health sectors.

I would also like to appeal for good cooperation between schools and hospitals and among the people in the entire district in order to maintain and further develop these two sectors to enable them to respond to the people's needs for education and health in our village and district. [applause]

Defense Ministry Reports 3-10 Feb 'Victories'

BK1702063190 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] According to a report by the spokesman of the Defense Ministry, in the past week our Armed Forces launched search-and-destroy operations against the enemies and scored pride-worthy victories.

From 3 to 10 February, our Armed Forces, including regular, regional, militia, and security forces, actively launched search-and-destroy operations by effectively employing combined forces, combined measures, and combined means. During these operations, our Armed Forces encountered the enemies on 15 occasions during which we put 134 enemies out of action, including 109 killed, 22 captured, and three surrendered, and seized 65 assorted weapons and a large quantity of war materiel.

An outstanding battle took place in the 5th Military Region on 9 February. Our combined forces, in cooperation with the 6th platoon and A-3 unit of Pursat Province, launched a sweep operation in the Tonle Sap Lake area and clashed with the enemies. After fighting for two hours, our forces put 14 enemies out of action, including six killed and eight wounded. We seized a 12.7-mm gun and destroyed 48 hideouts of the enemies, an arms cache, and a large quantity of war materiel.

In Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province on 6 February, our forces from the 17th Company attacked about 50 Pol Pot soldiers attempting to launch sabotage activities and to rob our people in Prey Nho commune. Three of them were killed and five others were wounded. We seized a quantity of war materiel.

In Banteay Meanchey Province, in an area 12 km northeast of Svay Chek, our forces clashed with and killed 12 enemies.

14 Feb 'Success' in Banteay Meanchey Reported

BK1602140190 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Here is a report from the front line: According to our sources in Banteay Meanchey Province, on 14 February the three reactionary Khmer groups with the Pol Potists as their backbone mustered the remnants of their forces from everywhere in an attempt to launch a large-scale attack against us. They divided their forces into small groups to make it easy for them to simultaneously sneak into our defense perimeters, especially Chan Kam, Preah Net Preah, Bos Sbov, Kouk Mkak, Ta Ma, Sophi, Soeng, and Nimit. But their designs were grasped by our forces who launched an operation to intercept them, inflicting a very serious setback on the enemy.

As a matter of fact, our People's Armed Forces put many enemy soldiers out of action, killing 42 of them on the spot and wounding many others who were painstakingly dragged away by their comrades. Our forces also captured two enemy soldiers and seized a large quantity of war materiel.

This great success just achieved by our Armed Forces frustrated the insane ambition of the enemy, pushing him into the abyss of irreparable defeat. The enemy is deteriorating both in terms of manpower and equipment. Its men are badly demoralized. On the other hand, this victory is raising the morale and strengthening the fighting spirit of the cadres and combatants of our Armed Forces who are determined to defend their strategic positions, the gains of the national society, and the peaceful existence of our people.

'Cambodian National Government' Communique

BK1802003690 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 17 Feb 90

["Communique of the Cambodian National Government"]

[Text] 1. On 17 February 1990, the cabinet of the Cambodian National Government met under the chairmanship of His Excellency Son Sann, prime minister of the Cambodian National Government; His Excellency Khieu Samphan, vice president of Cambodia in charge of foreign affairs; and Prince Norodom Ranariddh, personal representative of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk in Cambodia and Asia; with the participation of a number of ministers of the Cambodian National Government.

2. The cabinet examined the comprehensive situation of the Cambodian people's struggle to win back national independence and sovereignty. The cabinet would like to heartily praise all Cambodian nationalists for making great sacrifices to advance the battlefield.

3. The cabinet would like to again affirm that the Cambodian National Government still wants a comprehensive solution to end Vietnam's war of aggression and occupation of Cambodia. In this spirit, the cabinet believes that the informal meeting on Cambodia, planned to be held in Jakarta from 26 to 28 February 1990 within the framework of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, should discuss every aspect of a comprehensive solution and should follow the rules set by the Paris international conference, particularly the principle of taking unanimous decisions.

4. The cabinet would like to take this opportunity to express again the profound gratitude of the Cambodian people and the Cambodian National Government headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Cambodia, to peace, justice-, and freedom-loving countries the world over for the precious assistance and support to the Cambodian people's struggle. The cabinet would also like to appeal to these countries to continue providing this support until Cambodia receives 100 percent independence.

[Dated] 17 February 1990
[Signed] Son Sann, Khieu Samphan, Norodom Ranariddh

Sihanouk Support for DK in Solution Cited

BK1702021690 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of the Cambodian national resistance forces and president of Cambodia, told newsmen in Phatthaya, Thailand on 12 February that the tripartite Cambodian resistance forces have continued to jointly fight against the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets. The samdech pointed out: We should not belittle the presence of the Democratic Kampuchean party. This is because the Democratic Kampuchean side is the most powerful force in the current fight against the aggressors, that is the Vietnamese aggressor troops inside Cambodia, and it enjoys more support from the people. Therefore, the process to settle the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia must include the Democratic Kampuchean party.

Sihanouk Cited on 'Obstacle' to Settlement

BK1702030290 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] In a written reply dated 13 February to questions posed by a UPI correspondent, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of the Cambodian national resistance forces and president of Cambodia, said that the maneuvers of the SRV and Hun Sen constitute a major obstacle to the just settlement of the Cambodian problem now and in the future. The stances of the Cambodian national resistance forces and that of Hun Sen are far apart. Thus, there is no hope that the complicated Cambodian problem will be resolved quickly. The so-called Cambodian problem is certainly not a problem among Cambodians. It is a problem between the SRV, which wants to impose the colonial yoke on Cambodia and implement its Vietnamization policy to annex Cambodia, and the Cambodian patriots, who have the sacred duty to fight undauntedly against the Vietnamese colonialists in whatever forms.

Sihanouk Said Pessimistic About Jakarta Talks

BK1802023390 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] On 14 February, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, leader of the Cambodian national resistance forces, told reporters in Ta Phraya [Prachin Buri Province, Thailand] that the informal meeting in Jakarta will not be able to solve the Hanoi Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia. The tripartite Cambodian alliance wants an international conference convened in Paris to solve the Hanoi Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia.

VONADK Reports Mutiny in Koh Kong Province

BK1702091890 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Summary] The situation in Dang Tong township in Koh Kong Province has been deteriorating since early February through mutinies of Cambodian soldiers forced to serve the Vietnamese.

"Between 1 and 2 February, Cambodian soldiers burned four houses in Dang Tong town market which stock goods for sale and for dispatching into the interior of the country. Between 5 and 6 February, 270 Cambodian soldiers, all armed, fired on and burned many houses in Dang Tong town market, Koh Kong, causing serious damages."

"Puppet authority officials in Koh Kong town fled in disorder. The 270 Cambodian soldiers stayed and were in control in Dang Tong for more than three days."

According to people living near Dang Tong, "These Cambodian soldiers were very angry with the Vietnamese and puppet leaders who monopolize everything in Dang Tong township. The prices of goods are sky high; low-level officials cannot afford to live decently; they have to beg cheaply from traders daily."

The local people further report that "to this day, the situation in Koh Kong town is not yet back to normal; traders and people have not yet returned to Dang Tong township in great numbers. The Vietnamese have dispatched troops from Kompong Som by ship to intervene using mortars, machine guns, and artillery pieces; a number of Cambodian soldiers and people have been killed."

Units Involved in Mutiny Listed

BK1802032690 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Excerpt] The puppet 91st Brigade stationed in Koh Kong Kraom and Koh Kong Leu [Koh Kong Province] has successively mutinied and carried out activities against the Vietnamese enemy and the Phnom Penh puppets.

Troops in the 91st Brigade, in cooperation with about 200 soldiers from the Mondolseima and Kiriseima Districts, revolted and attacked the Koh Kong provincial seat, called Dang Tong town, on 5 and 6 February. Along with this, puppet soldiers in the 91st Brigade stationed in Koh Kong Leu—at Ta Poch, Ban Phlu, Veal Toch, Veal Thom, and the 157th position—revolted, laid down their weapons, and converged on Dang Tong town. [passage omitted]

'Captured' SRV Officer on Troops in Battambang

BK1702092490 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Summary] In fighting on 7 February, the Cambodian national resistance forces captured nine Vietnamese soldiers, some of whom were wounded. Among the prisoners was a medical officer named "(Nguyen Van Tai), with the rank of lieutenant, in the 2d Battalion of the special and independent division based in the puppet 196th Division stationed in Kamping Puoy, Ta Kream, and O Pong Moan [Battambang Province]."

In his preliminary report, this Vietnamese lieutenant says that "some troops of the 330th and 309th Divisions, previously stationed in Pailin, Samlot, and Route 10, had indeed been withdrawn but not all of them had been pulled out. From 20 September, parts of Vietnam's 330th and 309th Divisions had been moved further east from Route 10 and Battambang. However, in November 1989, the majority of the withdrawn troops had been sent back to Route 10 to defend this road and Battambang because the national resistance forces had routed and smashed the puppet divisions in Treng, O Andong, and Sdau. The 330th and 309th Divisions were sent back to Route 10 to help defend Battambang town."

This Vietnamese lieutenant further says: "Without the Vietnamese troops, Cambodian soldiers cannot oppose the Cambodian resistance forces. Cambodian soldiers in Kamping Puoy, Ta Ngen, and Ta Kream include troops belonging to the puppet 196th and 4th Divisions; still they cannot oppose the Cambodian resistance forces. To this day, only Vietnamese soldiers are opposing the resistance forces on Route 10."

(Nguyen Van Tai) also says: "In radio communications, there are strict orders from higher Vietnamese officers not to use the Vietnamese language; the conversation is left to a handful of Cambodians in each unit to handle. All combat orders came from the Vietnamese."

Lieutenant (Nguyen Van Tai) also talks about Vietnam's plans to continue occupying Cambodia through various maneuvers such as ordering Vietnamese soldiers to assimilate with the Cambodian people by learning the Cambodian language and marrying Cambodian women.

SRV 'Crack Troops' Said Back in Country

PM1702165190 Paris LE MONDE in French 9 Feb 90 p 6

[Jacques Bekaert dispatch: "Vietnamese Soldiers Said To Be Participating in Defense of Battambang"]

[Text] Battambang—In the vast courtyard of a jute factory, a group of militiamen are training while amused workers look on. In 1983 the factory was partly destroyed by the Khmer Rouge. "But this time," the leader of the assault group asserts, "we are prepared." The reason being that the militia consists of an "offensive" force of 120 men and a "defensive" force of 100 men armed with Kalashnikov rifles and B-40 rocket launchers.

Near to the provincial government building in the residential district, a young soldier is pacing up and down, his B-40 on his back. He is 16 years old. He admits to one wish—for peace, which will enable him to return to till his parents' field. At the hospital, where the Red Cross International Committee is trying to install a permanent team, men and women lie in the oppressive heat and the smell of ether, urine, and decay hangs in the air. Arms and legs blown off by mines and an increasingly frequent number of bullet wounds: This is the everyday face of horror, because Battambang, the major city of western Cambodia, is in the front line.

In the central market, life is almost normal. There is an abundance of Thai produce. A bargain, perhaps, for the two Vietnamese soldiers who have come to do some shopping here. People here talk about the Vietnamese without surprise. The Phnom Penh authorities, of course, deny their presence fiercely. Officially all the Vietnamese soldiers left the country on 26 September last. But any tradesman or ordinary soldier will volunteer the information that the Vietnamese returned at the beginning of November. There is a large number of them, people say, concentrated in the region of Battambang and Sisophon Pursat. They are stationed "outside the city," a Khmer militiaman affirmed. "Serious, very disciplined men, real soldiers," an old man commented.

Crack Troops

It appears that, in the face of the danger threatening cities like Battambang and Sisophon in late October, the Phnom Penh authorities decided to appeal to the Vietnamese, who responded, though somewhat reticently, by sending crack troops. Unverifiable rumors abound. The Cambodians say readily that these troops have to be paid "at least 100 dollars a month," a policeman on duty near a bridge explained. In a country where the monthly salary of a civil servant is 4 dollars at most, that is clearly a fortune.

The people of Battambang, where the Khmer Rouge made a brief incursion on 5 January—"because there were gaps in our defense," a Khmer soldier explained—are quite happy about the Vietnamese troops' return. "So long as they are here, we are more or less sheltered from the war," a woman who runs a market store explained. Her neighbors agreed. Because it is the war that people really fear. They fear the various factions less than the chaos, the explosions, the mines, the shells, the flashing of the guns. "I don't sleep at night any more, I am so afraid," one worker at the jute factory said. She isn't the only one.

The Battambang authorities are confident. The worst is over, a member of the city people's committee explained. Of course, "there are still disputed territories all along the Thai border, but we will get them back sooner or later."

500 SRV Troops Said Stationed in Kompong Cham

BK1902090890 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Recently, our Cambodian national resistance forces carried out military, semi-military, and political activities east of the Mekong River in Kompong Cham, Prey Veng, and Kratie Provinces. We cut the Moat Khmuoy bridge east of Tonle Bet to Suong [in Kompong Cham Province] and carried out successive activities to smash and dismantle village state authorities of the Vietnamese enemy and puppets.

In this situation, the Vietnamese enemy and puppets are in great panic because they lack forces to oppose our guerrilla activities. Therefore, the puppet provincial committee in Kompong Cham met with Vietnamese commanders in the province to ask for Vietnamese troops to assist in improving the situation which is deteriorating in Kompong Cham, Prey Veng, and Kratie Provinces.

There are now 500 officers and men from Vietnam's 7th Military Region stationed in Kompong Cham Province, particularly at the Chup road junction, Route 15, adjoining the Chup rubber plantation. These Vietnamese troops have the tasks of intervening both east and west of the Mekong River in Kompong Cham Province, particularly in Kompong Cham Province.

Heng Samrin Regime Dissolution Proposal Viewed

BK1802083790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Excerpts] His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and prime minister of the national government of Cambodia, has said that the proposal for the dissolution of the Heng Samrin regime does not mean that we do not accept those officials working in this regime, but it means only the dissolution of the structure of the Vietnamese-installed Heng Samrin regime in order to open ways for a correct election in Cambodia.

Mr. Ieng Muli, secretary general of the KPNLF, said that His Excellency Son Sann informed an Australian delegation about this during their recent meeting at the Thai-Cambodian border upon his return from a visit to the sub-province of Banteay Chhma. [passage omitted]

His Excellency Son Sann is currently in Bangkok, Thailand. He will leave Bangkok on 25 February to attend the meeting in Jakarta.

Laos

U.S. Statement on Attacks on Villages Rebuffed

BK1802125190 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 18 Feb 90

[PASASON commentary: "Statement Full Of Evil Intentions"—date not given]

[Text] Voice of America Radio on the evening of 14 February broadcast a statement by the U.S. State Department expressing concern over the so-called use of air and ground forces by the Lao Government to attack some villages in the central and northern regions of Laos, inflicting losses in lives and property of the people. This statement is considered a slanderous statement trampling the honor and prestige of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]. It has also created an adverse atmosphere for the efforts to further seek means to improve relations between Laos and the United States.

As everyone well knows, since the complete liberation of Laos in 1975, the government and multiethnic people of Laos, under the leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, have concentrated their energy and intelligence on restoring the economy and developing the culture, and have scored achievements in many fields. The material and spiritual life of the people has also been improved. Along with this, however, the multiethnic Lao people have experienced various trials arising from subversive and sabotage schemes and acts to create disturbances by the imperialists and their henchmen who sent their elements to infiltrate Laos to create unrest among the people in certain areas. Despite repeated defeats, they have not abandoned their subversive and sabotage schemes and acts, carried out under various forms, against the LPDR, thus creating an obstruction to the peaceful labor of the multiethnic Lao people. Such schemes and acts have run counter to the humanitarian spirit and brought about the destruction of lives and property of the Lao people.

To guarantee the peaceful construction movements and tranquillity of the people of various localities, the militia-guerrillas, in coordination with local authorities, have, therefore, launched suppression operations to wipe out those bandits and bad elements. That action is considered very correct and humanitarian by the militia-guerrillas and local authorities, as genuine owners of the country, for the country's tranquillity and public order in accordance with the policy of the party and government of the independent LPDR. The suppression and punishment of bandits and bad elements as mentioned above have taken place in all independent countries in the world. The United States itself has also suppressed individuals or groups of people who are seen to be dangerous to the security of the U.S.

Therefore, by issuing the statement slandering the LPDR, the U.S. State Department has fully shown its evil intentions toward Laos, and such a statement might be tantamount to hampering the joint efforts to improve bilateral relations.

Hun Sen Stops in Vientiane on Way to Bangkok

BK2002053290 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] This morning, Hun Sen, Council of Ministers chairman of the State of Cambodia, and his party stopped off in Vientiane on his way to visit the Kingdom of Thailand at the invitation of General Chatchai Chunhawan, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand. During his stay in Bangkok, Council of Ministers Chairman Hun Sen will meet with Prince Sihanouk to seek ways to settle the Cambodian problem through political means.

Welcoming Hun Sen and his party at Wattai airport were Phoun Sipaseut, Council of Ministers vice chairman and foreign affairs minister; Maisouk Saisompheng, minister and head of the office of the party Central Committee and the Council of Ministers; and a number of cadres concerned. Long Kem, the State of Cambodia's extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador to Laos, and embassy staff members were also on hand at the airport to welcome Hun Sen.

Meets Kaysone Phomvihan

BK2002124590 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] This afternoon, 20 February, Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and chairman of the Council of Ministers, met with Hun Sen, member of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee Political Bureau, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of foreign affairs of the State of Cambodia, who stopped off in Vientiane on his way to visit the Kingdom of Thailand at the invitation of General Chatchai Chunhawan, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand. During the meeting, Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan and Chairman Hun Sen discussed the internal situation in their respective countries and highly appraised the friendly relations and special solidarity between the parties, states, and peoples of the two countries in the past and present which are being further strengthened and expanded every day.

Chairman Hun Sen informed Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan of the current situation in Cambodia and several initiatives and proposals aimed at finding a correct, fair, and reasonable solution to the Cambodian problem. Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan expressed his wholehearted admiration for the successes and great victories scored by the Cambodian army and fraternal people during the previous year and his full support for the proposals put forth by the State of Cambodia that has demonstrated its goodwill and sincere and constant determination to settle the conflict at the negotiating table and through political means. He reiterated that the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] supports every constructive proposal and initiative regardless of its origin that is designed to find a correct and fair solution to the Cambodian problem. The LPDR will do its utmost to contribute to settling the conflict.

Chairman Hun Sen arrived in Vientiane this morning and is scheduled to leave for Bangkok tomorrow, 21 February. During his visit to Thailand, he will have an opportunity to hold another meeting with Prince Sihanouk to search for a political solution to the Cambodian problem.

Usmanov Meets With Kaysone Phomvihan, Departs

BK1802111190 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] This morning [17 February], Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], received in Vientiane a courtesy call from the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation led by Comrade Gumer Ismagilovich Usmanov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and member of the USSR Supreme Soviet, which is on a current working visit to the LPDR. During the talks, Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan informed the Soviet delegation of the new changes, achievements, and victories recently made by the Lao people. He also talked about lessons on economic reform and the use of economic mechanisms in various sectors of work, on building and consolidating administrations, on building the party and cadres, and on the implementation, promotion, and expansion of the popular democratic system in Laos. The new changes will continue to be vigorously carried out in the years to come.

Comrade Usmanov expressed thanks to Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan for the warm welcome on this occasion. He also briefed Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan on the present situation in the Soviet Union. He particularly noted the decision of the party and government as well as of the people of the Soviet Union to thoroughly effect the new changes aimed at consolidating the socialist system in terms of quality. Comrade Usmanov also hailed the initiative and achievements of the party, state, and people of Laos in creatively applying the new, Leninist economic policy to the practical conditions of Laos. In conclusion, Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan and Comrade Usmanov reiterated the determination of both sides to strengthen, ever more effectively, the Lao-Soviet friendship relations and all-around cooperation benefits of the two countries.

On the afternoon of the same day, Comrade Usmanov and the delegation left Vientiane for home. They were seen off at Wattai Airport by Comrade Somlat Chanthamat, secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and head of the Propaganda and Training Board of the Party Central Committee, and Comrade Chaleun Yiapaoheu, alternate member of the Party Central Committee and Standing Committee member of the Supreme People's Assembly, along with a number of appropriate cadres. Comrade Yuriy Mikheyev, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union to Laos, was also on hand to see the delegation off at the airport.

Cambodian Party Delegation Arrives for Visit

BK2002111490 Vientiane KPL in English 0946 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Vientiane, Feb 20 (KPL)—A delegation of the organizational board of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea led by Ms. Men Sam-an, Politburo member of the party Central Committee and its secretary, arrived here today for a 7-day visit to the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] at the invitation of the LPRP CC's [Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee's] organizational board. The delegation was met at the airport by Oudom Khatthi-gna, alternate Politburo member of the party Central Committee and its secretary and head of its organizational board. Cambodian Ambassador to Laos Long Kem was also present at the airport.

Information, Culture Delegation Visits Vietnam

BK2002120790 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1400 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] A delegation of the Ministry of Information and Culture, led by Son Khamvanvongsa as its acting minister, left Vientiane this afternoon for a 10-day goodwill visit to the SRV at the invitation of the SRV's Information Ministry. During its stay in the SRV, our delegation will sign a protocol on cooperation in information service between the two countries for 1990 and work together with the Vietnamese to further increase cooperation in the area on the basis of each country's restructuring concept.

Seeing the delegation off at Wattai airport were Paseut Sisanon, deputy minister of information and culture; (Tran Tong Ngo), acting SRV charge d'affaires to Laos; and a number of cadres concerned.

Philippines

Reportage on Visit of U.S. Secretary of Defense

Cheney Said Targetted

HK1702084590 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Report by Eloi Aquino]

[Text] U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney is the target for assassination by two forces considered as government enemies, the Reform the Armed Forces Movement [RAM] and the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP]. The information came from high-ranking officials of the military intelligence community who attended the Philippine Military Academy [PMA] graduation rites. In view of this, the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] had enforced a tight security system meant for the forthcoming visit of Secretary Cheney. The said security system was based on a request by the U.S. Embassy and Malacanang for the protection of the U.S. official.

Meanwhile, media men, who will be covering the PMA graduation, and all the guests to the rites will be subjected to thorough searches.

The source also stated that the plan to kill Cheney is to dramatize the two groups' strong opposition to the presence of the U.S. bases in the country, adding that the plan may also be the realization of a planned alliance between the RAM soldiers and the CPP-New People's Army [NPA] members. According to the report, the rebel soldiers' group does not interfere with the NPA's operations, while the NPA camp, likewise, had remained quiet on the coup launched by the RAM-Soldiers of the Filipino People last December.

It is recalled that AFP Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa announced that the military red alert status was declared due to the forthcoming series of activities in the country.

Defense Secretary Cheney Arrives

HK1902042890 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos and U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney are presently holding a meeting at Camp Aguinaldo. Cheney arrived at 0900 this morning for a two-day Manila visit. It is expected that the two secretaries will discuss security in the Asia-Pacific region. Earlier, Ramos stated he would ask Cheney how the U.S. could fulfill its aid commitments to the Philippines. There were reports last week about the U.S.' nonfulfillment of its aid promises to the Philippines as stipulated in the Shultz-Manglapus accord.

Meanwhile, Cheney will visit the Subic Naval Base and will leave for Japan tomorrow, after visiting Clark Air Base.

30 Injured in Anti-Cheney Rally

HK1902105990 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Riot police used tear gas to disperse hundreds of demonstrators who were protesting the arrival of U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney outside the U.S. Embassy in Manila. Meanwhile, outside Clark Air Base in Pampanga, 30 people were reportedly injured when policemen dispersed stone-hurling students and workers trying to enter the air base.

Police reported five of their colleagues were injured outside the U.S. Embassy when demonstrators went into a rampage following the arrival of U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney. Cheney will stay in the country until Wednesday.

Tear Gas Fired at Demonstrators

HK1902093990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 19 Feb 90

[By Jennifer Postigo]

[Text] Shooting broke out here in front of the U.S. Embassy where a rally was held by cause-oriented groups. Tear gas was fired some five minutes ago, as cause-oriented organizations like the League of Filipino Students, Anti-Bases Coalition, National Union of Students of the Philippines, and the New Nationalist Alliance tried to get closer to the U.S. embassy but were blocked by Western Police District [WPD] personnel.

The demonstrators have been playing hide and seek with the WPD personnel along Roxas Boulevard. Earlier, WPD policemen met the demonstrators at the corner of T.M. Kalaw and Roxas Boulevard in an attempt to stop them approaching the U.S. Embassy. The demonstrators were carrying tomatoes, stones, and pillboxes [homemade bombs] and were met with warning shots from the policemen and members of the SWAT team.

We saw some demonstrators arrested by the police but we do not have any names. Some demonstrators fell and others appeared to have been hit by rookie policemen in the first line of the dispersal unit. But we do not think anyone was hurt by the warning shots, except for the stinging effect on the eyes caused by the tear gas. The demonstrators are being chased by the SWAT team as far as Ermita [district of Manila].

Policemen Hurt in Demonstration

HK1902094990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Report by Jennifer Postigo with interview with Major Villalino of Western Police District]

[Text] [Postigo] We are still here in front of the U.S. Embassy at Plaza Ferguson. Colonel Ernesto Diokno, acting Western Police District [WPD] superintendent, has just left after personally supervising the mopping-up operations here. It is rather sad that none of those who hurled pillboxes [homemade bombs] were arrested. We learned from some policemen, whom we will not name for fear they are reprimanded by their superiors, that the students apprehended for throwing pillboxes all turned out to be girls and were just let go by the arresting officers.

Injured policemen include: Major Venerando Minas, Station 9 commander, Pfcs Rodolfo Tubig, Arturo Gatmaitan, Joselito Santa Teresa, Roberto Dimaalat, and Galberto Mendoza and Patrolman Romeo Pena. They were all hit by pillboxes and stones.

We have here WPD Station 5 commander Major Villalino and we will ask him what provoked the violence. Everything appeared quiet at first, then the demonstrators started hurling tomatoes followed by stones and pillboxes.

[Villalino] There was no provocation from the police side as the police had been exercising maximum tolerance. The truth is that the police were just blocking the streets to stop the demonstrators from crossing into the U.S. Embassy compound. But we noticed that they were intent on making trouble. First they had the girls leave the scene. From experience, that was an indication of trouble. The next thing we knew, they tried to break our cordon, then started throwing tomatoes and pillboxes, causing injuries to many policemen.

[Postigo] Sir, many pillboxes seem to have been recovered by members of the bomb disposal unit. How many were found?

[Villalino] Based on what I counted earlier, three unexploded pillboxes and one detonated one were recovered.

[Postigo] Colonel Diokno issued a directive for the arrest of the leaders who will be charged. What charges will be filed and who are those to be arrested?

[Villalino] The leaders who appeared earlier and who made speeches will be charged with illegal assembly and sedition.

[Postigo] Who are these leaders?

[Villalino] I saw Nathaniel Santiago and Mike Defensor and some others.

[Postigo] Now that the mopping up operation is over, what will members of Station 5 do? Will you continue to guard the U.S. Embassy for fear that the demonstrators will regroup and return?

[Villalino] As with previous and current orders, after a rally is dispersed, a contingent unit stays behind just in case the demonstrators regroup and return.

[Postigo] Many thanks to Major Villalino of Station 5. The policemen injured in the demonstration here in front of the U.S. Embassy are presently confined at the Manila Hospital.

Ramos Happy With Meeting Results

HK1902090890 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Report by Eloi Aquino]

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos today said he is happy with the outcome of his meeting with U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney regarding the measures on how to restore the $96 million cut by the U.S. Congress from the U.S. bases compensation package for the Philippines.

In a three-hour closed-door conference in Camp Aguinaldo this morning, Cheney assured the Philippine Government that there will be no fundamental shift in U.S. policy in the region. Cheney said the U.S. will enforce what it called modest changes which result from budgetary restrictions [word indistinct]. The U.S. defense chief stated that [words indistinct] its 86 continental bases starting next month and will close many more in the coming months. Cheney said that developments in the country have been misinterpreted and had resulted in a feud between American and Philippine leaders. He stressed that the United States had not sent any signals aside from continuing a strong alliance and commitment to democracy. At the same time, Cheney said that President Aquino still gains continued support and respect in the United States. He described the Philippine president as a symbol of a continuous commitment to democracy by the two countries.

According to Cheney, his relationship with the president is one with good understanding and he added that the United States has high respect for Aquino for her democratic principles. Cheney stated that the future of the military bases in the Philippines is in the hands of the Filipinos and the Aquino government, adding that the presence of the U.S. bases in the country will not only improve the already good relations between the two countries but will also help in the security of the Asia-Pacific region.

[Begin Cheney recording in English] Let me emphasize again that the United States is in the Philippines today as a result of our common interest in our mutual security, our shared historical heritage, and commitment [words indistinct] values.

Our presence here, though, is obviously something that has to be associated with the Government of the Philippines and we are about to embark upon negotiations on exactly what that relationship should be in the future: Whether or not it ought to continue, under what conditions it ought to continue, and for how long it ought to continue. I will say, as I have said before, that the United States believes that it has been in the interest of the Philippines and the United States for us to be here. We also believe it has been in the interest of other nations in the region, in terms of providing greater prospects for peace and stability. But this is an agreement to be negotiated between the sovereign governments and the United States will stay only as long as the Filipino people and their government wishes us to stay and only if the terms and conditions that are negotiated are acceptable to both parties. [end recording]

According to Cheney, his meeting with Ramos on issues regarding the good relationship between the two countries was sincere. On the other hand, Ramos did not give full details on the future of the U.S. military bases in the country but said that the fate of the military bases is in the hands of the legislative-executive branches, who are responsible for the exploratory talks on the bases.

Aquino Welcomes Assistance

HK2002103990 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] President Corazon Aquino today acknowledged the reiteration of U.S. assistance by U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney during his visit to the Philippines. Over to Tanny Rodriguez for the details.

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] According to Cheney, his government will continue to support the Philippines, particularly by trying its best to meet its foreign assistance pledge. This was the response by the president after Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos reported the results of his meeting with Cheney to her.

The president's response was read by Presidential Spokesman Adolfo Azcuna:

[Azcuna, in English] I welcome the statement of support for this government and for Philippine democracy made by Secretary Cheney on behalf of the United States. I also welcome his reiteration that the United States will make its best efforts to meet its pledge for foreign assistance.

The problem appears to be with the United States Congress and its funding priorities in light of the fact that executive agreements, as distinguished from treaties, are not binding on the Congress. But we are as ready as the Americans to discuss these difficulties in sincerity and good faith. [end recording]

Cheney Leaves for Japan 20 Feb

HK2002043590 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney has left the country. He visited Clark Air Base this morning before flying to Kadena Air Base in Okinawa. He will go to Tokyo for a three-day visit. The United States has 18,000 men in the Philippines, 50,000 in Japan and Okinawa, and 43,000 in South Korea.

Students Mount Protest at Clark

HK2002113790 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 20 Feb 90

[From "GMA News" program]

[Text] Militant students tried to enter Clark Air Base today to protest the visit of U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney. However, they were stopped by American and Filipino soldiers guarding the gate.

The demonstration took place after Cheney had left for Tokyo. On his last day in the Philippines, Cheney met with U.S. 13th Air Force commander Major General William Setter. He also attended a briefing on a military exercise.

Escort Said 'Vulgar Show'

HK2002041590 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 20 Feb 90 p 12

[Text] U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney yesterday arrived in the country accompanied by a "nuclear-capable amphibious assault ship" which docked at Subic Naval Base in Olongapo City, reports received by the House progressive bloc claimed.

Rep. Gregorio Andolana of North Cotabato, a member of the bloc who received the report from "intelligence sources," claimed a USS Peleliu, said to be one of the most lethal naval vessels plying the Pacific Basin, entered the country with Mr. Cheney.

The solons said this "coincidence" can only be interpreted as a "vulgar show of force calculated to twit the Filipino people's unprecedented unity against the continued stay of the U.S. bases."

Gunboat Diplomacy

"Mr. Cheney and company ought to be reminded that the era of gunboat diplomacy—when warships looming in the horizon can persuade a docile government to toe their line—cannot apply anymore in the Philippines where the people's resolve to oust foreign bases from their soil has become irreversible," Rep. Andolana said.

He noted that international peace groups such as the Greenpeace International and the Pacific Campaign to Disarm the Seas have tagged USS Peleliu, an 89,500-ton Tarawa-class helicopter carrier, as armed with "an assortment of nuclear weapons."

Nuclear Arms

The USS Peleliu, based in Long Beach, California, is known to be carrying anti-submarine rocket (Asroc), a ship-launched, unguided, range-controlled dual capable rocket; Terrier missiles, which are short-range surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles, each with one W45-O number warhead with a yield of one kiloton; and 155 mm and 8-inch nuclear projectiles for artillery use ashore by the U.S. Marine Corps it permanently carries.

According to the latest edition of the Nuclear Weapons Databook, the AV-8B Harrier II VTOL jets aboard the Peleliu carry nuclear weapons such as the B61 light weight, multipurpose thermonuclear bomb with a yield option of up to 500 kilotons.

"It is revolting to note," Mr. Andolana stressed, "That the nuclear weapons-laden Peleliu arrives at a time when the emissary of the U.S. Government has flown into town to pledge support to the constitutional government of President Aquino when they are aware that such Constitution forbids nuclear weapons."

USSR's Gerasimov Reportedly Arrives in Manila

HK1902120990 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 19 Feb 90 p 4

[From "Between Deadlines" column: "Bigwig's Great Escape"]

[Text] Organizers of the Fourth One-Asia Assembly which reels off at the PICC [Philippine International Convention Center] this morning, were in a tizzy early Sunday morning.

Gennadiy Gerasimov, information director of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs, spokesman of President Mikhail Gorbachev, and a speaker in the panel discussion on "East-West dialog" during the Assembly, arrived as scheduled at the NAIA [Ninoy Aquino International Airport] at midnight Saturday. But by 1:30 a.m. he still had not checked in at the Manila Hotel where he was to be billetted.

What happened to the Soviet bigwig? Had he been kidnapped by the CIA? The Chinese? Or did he fall prey to the NAIA's notorious corps of con men posing as taxi drivers?

Fortunately for world peace and the country's tourism industry, none of the above scenarios took place.

Gerasimov, it turned out, was "kidnapped" by no less than the Soviet ambassador to Manila who met him at the airport and promptly whisked him off to an undisclosed destination outside the city.

But Assembly participants are assured that Gerasimov, a tall, charming fellow by all accounts, will show up at the Assembly sessions as scheduled.

Does the presence of U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney in Manila today have anything to do with Gerasimov's great escape? Was it to forestall the possibility of the Soviet official's upstaging the American visitor? A little glasnost would be in order.

Comments on U.S. Keeping Bases

HK2002021590 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] The Soviet Union said the United States would have to offer new reasons why it should not withdraw all its foreign military bases in the Asia-Pacific region. Gennadiy Gerasimov, foreign spokesman for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, said that with the end of cold war era there is no more reason for the United States to deploy troops in Asia, referring to U.S. forces in the Philippines, Japan, and South Korea.

Gerasimov is one of the prominent speakers of the opening session of the One-Asia Assembly at the Philippine International Convention Center. He talked on a wide gamit of issues associated with changes in Soviet foreign policy. He said, Americans, if they wanted to keep their bases in Asia, must invent new reasons now. He added the Soviet geo-political position is at a disadvantage, being surrounded by U.S. forces in Asia.

Dismisses 'Power Vacuum' Fears

HK2002040790 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 20 Feb 90 p 1

[By Jose G. Ebro]

[Text] Soviet officials are down-playing any destabilizing effects of a U.S. withdrawal from the region, saying America is looking for other excuses to maintain its forward deployment strategy in the face of continuing reduction of Soviet forces worldwide.

Gennadiy Gerasimov, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's spokesman, dismissed fears of a resultant power vacuum should the bases go. "Suppose the bases go tomorrow... where's the threat?" he asked. "China won't take the Philippines."

Sources of potential conflict in the region arising out of unresolved disputes such as on maritime boundaries in the South China Sea should be addressed through political means rather than military posturing, Soviet envoy Oleg Sokolov said.

"We should work out a system of political guarantees so that the balance of interests is observed and the interests of all the parties concerned are taken into account. The sooner we start the better," he urged, saying that Soviet Union would view a U.S. withdrawal in the near term "positively."

Problem

"The big problem for the U.S. and Japan is that we are denying them an enemy," Mr. Gerasimov said. "The raison d'etre for military buildup is fast disappearing. There's no use for a buildup when we are building down."

"The U.S. presence here was explained in the past as responding to the Soviet-American confrontation. But President Gorbachev told the American President in Malta: 'We are not looking at you as an enemy...we want to be partners.' So, now they must invent something else to justify the American military presence here."

"If the U.S. leaves, we will not fill the vacuum," the Soviet spokesman averred.

"Their other argument—the multipolar world," bringing about the emergence of medium powers and thus, more potential threat, was dismissed out of hand by Mr. Gerrasimov. "Who is the threat to America?" he asked. "Japan? No. Indonesia? No. China?... I think not."

What about fears that internal upheavals in the Soviet Union render President Gorbachev's hold on power questionable, he was asked.

No Alternative

"There is no alternative to Gorbachev. No other leader of his stature," Mr. Gerasimov confidently asserted.

"The conservatives cannot argue against perestroyka. They are not really organized," he said. "They put up obstacles here and there...but they don't have a leader."

Apparently, Mr. Gorbachev is using an organization of reform-minded lower echelon military officers to counter the more conservative-thinking High Command.

"A new group, the 'Shield'...with the aim of defending the rights of the military organization,.. sometimes they quarrel with the High Command, which is new for us...but 'Shield' is for Gorbachev," Mr. Gerasimov explained. "This is more a development of democratization into the army."

As to assertions that the Soviet idealogy is largely discredited, Mr. Gerasimov had this to say: "We had a 'garrison socialism' which is our misfortune. We want to return to the original socialism with the Man as the center of everything. Socialism is going to survive. It's an idea...you cannot kill it. Just as Christianity had the Inquisition...but, the Church is still there."

Ethnic Unrest

Ethnic unrest, which is coming to the fore with the breakdown of totalitarian control was a "problem"...a complex problem...which we are trying to address," he said. "There was a crackdown in Baku...because of the killing of Armenians. Any government must act to restore law and order," he stressed.

He denied reports that Iran was funneling arms to Azerbaijani militants. "They're stealing the weapons from our armories," he said.

Mr. Gerasimov concluded the interview with a playful challenge to visiting U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney, "I heard he's in town. Maybe he should address the One Asia Assembly too."

Aquino Reiterates Bases Talks To Begin in Apr

HK1902145390 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] President Corazon Aquino asserted that exploratory talks between the Philippine and U.S. panels will commence in April in order to discuss the fate of U.S. military bases in the country. Over to Tanny Rodriguez for the report.

[Begin recording] A teleconference was aired this morning as part of the ongoing One Asia assembly at the Philippine International Convention Center. At the conference, the president reiterated that the primary concern in deciding on the U.S. military bases issue is the national interest. In other words, whether or not the military bases should remain in the country come 1991.

When asked how she intends to realize economic development amid threats of more disturbances, the president stated that she believes the stability of the country comes from the support of the people and that this was clearly demonstrated by the people during the past six coup attempts. The president said the world saw the people did not side with the rebels. She expressed belief that as long as the Filipino people support her and democracy, any attempt to seize state power is bound to fail. [end recording]

Talks To Include Nuclear Policy

HK1902135790 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 19 Feb 90

[From "GMA News" program]

[Excerpt] President Aquino today said that the government will question the United States's policy of neither confirming nor denying the existence of nuclear weapons inside their military facilities. The issue will be raised during the exploratory talks to be held in April. The talks will serve as a basis for the government's decision on whether to hold negotiations for a new Military Bases Agreement.

At the news conference, Mrs Aquino also mentioned a constitutional provision banning nuclear weapons in the country.

[Begin Aquino recording in English—in progress] ...the Americans will have to ask the permission of the national government with regard to nuclear arms. And again, we will be having the exploratory talks which could possibly lead to the formal talks with regard to the negotiations of the bases. So all these matters will be taken up and the matter of the United States neither confirming nor denying policy will also be taken up so that whatever is to the Philippine interest will certainly be promoted and will certainly be defended and fought for in the coming talks. [end recording]

In the same teleconference, the president said that the collapse of communism in some countries, and the gradual end of the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union, have helped the country's counterinsurgency program. She added that it is now more difficult for communist rebels to seek financial assistance from other countries. [passage omitted]

Congressman Gillego Responds

HK2002052590 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Slantlines denote passage in English]

[Text] The Philippines can never make the United States admit that it keeps nuclear weapons on its military bases in the country. This is Congressman Bonifacio Gillego's reaction to President Aquino's statement yesterday, when she said at the opening of the One-Asia Assembly that the country would seek a U.S. response regarding the presence of nuclear weapons on the bases during the exploratory talks in April:

[Begin Gillego recording] That will not work with the Americans. /I remember I was in Honolulu at one time, and I listened to the former commander in chief of CINCPAC [Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet], Admiral Hayes, and he said that despite all the constitutional mandates of certain countries preventing the transport, entry, or transit of nuclear weapons, he said, military expediency would require them to disregard those consitutional mandates. That is coming from a former commander in chief of the Pacific Fleet, Admiral Hayes, in Honolulu./ [end recording]

Editorial Says U.S. Media 'Being Manipulated'

HK1902050590 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE in English 19 Feb 90 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "U.S. Media Are Being Manipulated] txt
[Text] In a talk with the GLOBE publisher at the Manila Hotel the day he and his wife arrived to attend the One

Asia Assembly, American journalist Stanley Karnow expressed surprise at our sanguine view of the situation despite the undoubtedly big problems the country is facing. We'll muddle through, we said, as we always have. Karnow was less sure. Cory's image in the U.S. was shot, he said. That of the Philippines, too. While he downplayed the role of the public relations firm, Black Manafort & Stone, which no longer enjoys the favor of the Republican administration and no longer has special access to restricted information, there was no question either, he said, that the U.S. State Department was using the American media to send a message to Cory. How this was being done, he did not elaborate beyond saying that things are fed to the press. It was obviously being done well, given the low state into which President Aquino and the Philippines have fallen in the opinion of the American public.

He knew, for example, that national security adviser Robert Gates had indeed "told off" Mrs. Aquino and advised her to reform her government, although "reading her the riot act" was putting it too strongly. The GLOBE editorial that tried to set the record straight on what it regarded as a harmless meeting was obviously wrong, if Karnow was right.

The military rebels, however, were enjoying a wave, alternatively, of admiration for their integrity and courage and indulgence towards the comic opera features of their movement, Karnow said.

His message was clear. There is a concerted move to line up American public opinion against Corazon Aquino and it was being more or less orchestrated by the U.S. government, specifically the State Department.

We were shocked that the American media which we hold up as a model of journalism, especially the print media, should lend itself to manipulation by the U.S. government. Given the vast financial resources of publications like THE NEW YORK TIMES, THE WASHINGTON POST, and the L.A. TIMES, their lending their prestigious pages and editorial opinion to the covert purposes of a government, even if it is their own, is utterly inexcusable. Not that poverty is ever a justification.

We can say this much for the Philippine press: conceding biases and bribe-taking of reporters and columnists on peripheral issues, the Philippine press is, by and large, impervious to institutional control and the corruption of its editorial prerogatives. It has invariably come down on the right side in the major issues of the day, as witness its united stand against the military rebellion. At the worse, one or two papers, out of a sense of gratitude for the favors done to its owners (a plastics smuggler for immunity against prosecution and a businessman for a highly advantageous deal) may lean backwards for the government, but it has never happened in this country that its most influential newspaper would allow themselves to be used, in concert, for the covert purposes of government. Mrs. Aquino is right after all, if Mr Karnow is to be believed. She is faced with a conspiracy—of the American media directed by the U.S. government.

Intelligence Security Chief Killed in Manila

HK1702051790 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0500 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] The chief security officer of the National Bureau of Investigation was shot and killed by three unidentified gunmen in Quiapo, this morning. Captain Generoso Javier, Manila police homicide section chief, identified the victim as Restituto Masilangan of North Fairview Subdivision, Quezon City.

Emelita Escano of Governor Forbes, Sampaloc, Manila, also a passenger in a jeep in which the victim was riding, was seriously wounded and was brought to the Philippine General Hospital. Witnesses said that the suspects fled toward the direction of the Metropolitan Theatre in Liwasang Bonifacio.

De Villa Orders Release of Suspected Coupists

HK2002040390 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0300 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa ordered the release of four Philippine Coastguard officials suspected of involvement in the failed coup d'etat. Released were Lieutenant Danila Abenoja, Lieutenant Leonardo Esguerra, Lieutenant Apoleo Estilles, and Lieutenant Leodegario Acebedo. Lieutenant Segeant Nenieto Arello of the Philippine Coastguard said the four senior officers were acquitted of the charges filed against them. It was reported that Abenoja and Acebedo were detained in Manila, while Estilles and Esguerra were in Cebu Coastguard headquarters.

Thailand

Sihanouk Returning to Occupied Territory 23 Feb

BK2002120490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1201 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Bangkok, Feb 20 (AFP)—Former Cambodian monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk is to return on Friday to Cambodia to live in territory seized by his army, his office here announced Tuesday. Prince Sihanouk would be the last of the three resistance factions' leaders to visit territory in Cambodia seized from the Phnom Penh regime since Vietnam ended its military occupation of the Southeast Asian nation in September, but the first to take up residence there. Prince Sihanouk had said earlier this month in Beijing, where he has a residence, that he would go to Cambodia to live, but did not name a date.

Diplomats said the prince's presence in Cambodia would be far more significant than that of either of the other two faction leaders because he is considered the key to any Cambodian settlement due to his prestige and wide acceptance among the warring Cambodian parties. The tripartite resistance coalition includes Prince Sihanouk's army and that of the Khmer Rouge and former Prime Minister Son Sann.

The prince is expected to enter Cambodia south of the Thai city of Surin, 450 kilometers northeast of Bangkok. His office did not specify the entry point, but diplomats and military analysts have said the prince will remain in territory near the border with Thailand. He had made regular trips since 1982, when the resistance coalition was formed, into guerrilla-held areas in Cambodia near the Thai border to receive ambassadors presenting credentials to his Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK), which the United Nations recognizes as Cambodia's legitimate government. [passage omitted]

Official Comments on Ramifications

BK1702033190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Feb 90 p 5

[Text] The return of Prince Norodom Sihanouk to Cambodia this month could lead to the voluntary repatriation of many of the 300,000 Cambodian refugees in Thailand, National Security Council Secretary-General Suwit Suthanukun said yesterday.

"The announcement that Prince Sihanouk will settle permanently in the liberated zone will encourage many Khmer refugees to move out of Thai territory," he said.

Sihanouk, considered the president of Cambodia by the three-party resistance coalition, has said he will return to live permanently in Cambodia at the end of February.

"The prince's return home will be a 'pull-factor' for refugees to return home," Suwit said in an interview with the UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL.

Already, he said, hundreds of refugees have quietly slipped out of the UN-supported camps and gone to the areas of western Cambodia that have been captured by the resistance in the past four months.

Suwit said Thailand had no objection to the return to Cambodia of the 300,000 refugees in camps along the border.

But "currently we have no plan to force them back because we are not 100 per cent sure they will be safe if they return," he said.

Sihanouk, 67, said that he has always longed to return to live in Cambodia, but until recently it was not safe for him to do so.

But now, he said, the resistance forces commanded by his son, Prince Ranariddh, were able to defend a sizeable area that will enable him to return "to live out the last part of my life" in Cambodia.

On Thursday, Ranariddh said the "liberated zone" was populated by about 106,000 people and defended by some of the 19,000 troops in Cambodia loyal to Sihanouk.

Sihanouk said a civilian administration has been set up but that the group was not yet ready to move large numbers of people from refugees camps in Thailand to the zone.

"I have to wait for the decision of the Thai government," Sihanouk said.

International relief officials concerned with the refugees said that administrators, medical personnel, teachers and some young people have already moved to the liberated zones.

Son Sann, the leader of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, went back to Cambodia earlier this week and the shadowy leaders of the Khmer Rouge have been inside Cambodia for some time.

One relief official said the three groups are already jostling for influence in the areas abandoned by the Vietnamese-backed government.

"They are out there trying to win the hearts and minds of the people and this is creating friction among the factions," he said.

The official said the UN does not have any objection to the movement of people back to Cambodia as long as it is "completely voluntary."

But he said the movements should not be confused with "proper, supervised repatriation" which would include funding for refugees to resettle in their homeland.

The official said the movements along the border were not only from Thailand to Cambodia, but also the other way. He estimated that 5,000 people have crossed from the resistance areas into the refugee camps in the past two months.

He said the people going to the camps were coming for treatment of malaria and tuberculosis because there was a severe shortage of medicines in the captured areas.

Sihanouk To Meet Hun Sen For Talks in Bangkok

Says Prepared To Meet

BK1702044190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Prince Norodom Sihanouk said yesterday that he expects to meet Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen "soon" and hopes the meeting will take place before the Jakarta informal meeting on February 26-28.

Thai officials informed Hun Sen yesterday that the Prince was prepared to meet him, but there had been no response from Phnom Penh, sources said.

However, the sources said the meeting was likely to take place before the Jakarta meeting.

Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan agreed to "facilitate" a meeting between the two after Sihanouk said shortly after arriving in Bangkok that he was prepared to meet Hun Sen if Bangkok or Paris agreed to host such a meeting.

Phansak Winyarat, chairman of the Prime Minister's policy advisers, yesterday confirmed that Gen Chatchai had agreed to "facilitate" a meeting between the two.

The Prince, speaking to reporters before dinner with Army Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut in Phatthaya last night, said there would be no agenda for his talks with Hun Sen.

He expressed hope that the talks would lead to progress that would bring about an honourable compromise and fair settlement of the Cambodian conflict.

Gen Chawalit was accompanied by about 50 army officers including Deputy Army Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun at the dinner at the Dusit Resort Hotel.

In Kuching, Malaysia, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and French Assistant Foreign Minister Edwise Avice reacted cautiously to the possibility of Sihanouk meeting Hun Sen before the Jakarta talks.

Alatas said that "continuing dialogue, especially among the parties directly involved, is a good thing" but declined to comment further.

Avice said "any form of dialogue is a good thing."

Asked to comment on the likelihood of a Sihanouk-Hun Sen meeting in Bangkok, Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila said: "Thank you for informing me about it."

Chatchai Comments on Talks

BK1802031290 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Feb 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk will meet Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh regime in Bangkok today or tomorrow as ASEAN and European Community foreign ministers announced yesterday that prospects for peace in Cambodia had been greatly encouraged by an agreement on an interim UN administration.

While declining to disclosed the venue of the meeting, Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan said he hoped talks between the prince and Hun Sen would benefit the next round of international peace talks in Jakarta, scheduled for February 26 to 28.

Phnom Penh and all three Cambodian resistance factions, including the Khmer Rouge, will participate in the Jakarta meeting with ASEAN, Vietnam, Laos, Australia and France.

The three resistance factions yesterday issued a press communique stating that the Jakarta informal meeting, to be convened in the framework of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia (PICC), should have an agenda dealing with all aspects of a comprehensive settlement and the PICC rules of procedures, especially the unanimity rule.

Prime Minister Chatchai said as it was the wish of Prince Sihanouk to meet Hun Sen, his role was only to facilitate such a meeting.

Prince Sihanouk and his son, Prince Ranariddh, met Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut and the army top brass, including Deputy Army C-in-C [commander in chief] Gen Suchinda Khraprayun and Deputy Army Chief-of-Staff Lt-Gen Wirot Saengsanit, at a dinner in Phatthaya last night [Friday, 16 February].

Emerging from the dinner late Friday night, Gen Chawalit told reporters the meeting between Prince Sihanouk and Prime Minister Hun Sen in Bangkok before the Jakarta meeting would pave the way for the search for peace in Cambodia.

He declined to go into details of his talk with the prince, saying he had to report to the Prime Minister first.

The army chief denied the Thai army would take care of Prince Sihanouk's security in Cambodia when he returns to the "liberated" area in his home country, opposite Surin, at the end of this month.

He said the prince had his own troops who would be able to undertake this task.

Prince Sihanouk told reporters in Phatthaya on Friday night he did not consult the two other resistance factions about his meeting with Hun Sen in Bangkok.

He maintained his talk with Hun Sen was on behalf of his party and his Army of Nationalist Sihanoukists (ANS).

The prince said further he hoped some progress would result.

Prince Sihanouk yesterday met US Senator Charles Robb (Virginia-Democrat) who is due to travel to Phnom Penh today for talks with the government.

Robb's meeting with Prince Sihanouk and the visit to Cambodia come at a time of heightened efforts to resolve the 11-year civil war. [passage omitted]

Chawalit To Escort Hun Sen

BK2002024190 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Feb 90 p 6

[Text] Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut will fly to Vientiane tomorrow morning to welcome Prime Minister Hun Sen to Bangkok in a special air force plane, an informed source said yesterday.

Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan told reporters that Hun Sen would arrive in Bangkok for a one-day visit to hold talks with the resistance leader, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, to discuss the Cambodian problem.

Chatchai said Chawalit will host lunch for the two Cambodian leaders before they begin discussion on internal aspect of the Cambodian problem.

The two leaders will later join Chatchai at his residence for a dinner banquet. It will be the first meeting in Thailand between Sihanouk and Hun Sen. The meeting was set up in hopes of breaking the deadlock on a Cambodian settlement and to lay the groundwork for future dialogue between the Cambodian factions.

Chatchai said Hun Sen would meet Sihanouk for private talks tomorrow afternoon without Thai participation. "The negotiation on the Cambodian problem should be among the two leaders' agenda," he said.

The source said Hun Sen would extend his stay in Thailand until Thursday [22 February] or Friday before leaving for the peace talks in Jakarta scheduled for Feb 26-28.

The meeting will be attended by representatives from ASEAN, Vietnam, Laos, France as well as the four warring factions.

Gen Chawalit told reporters that Sihanouk cooperated with Khmer Rouge because the depised guerrilla group actually fights for Cambodia, while in the eyes of the world the Heng Samrin regime was a puppet of Vietnam.

"Sihanouk has no desire to cooperate with the Khmer Rouge, but he has no choice," he said.

Chawalit said Sihanouk has to try his best to ensure the success of his 5-point proposal in settling the Cambodian conflict. Among other points, the proposal calls a quadripartite government to be set up prior to free elections. The issue has become the main stumbling block in peace negotiations in Cambodia.

Chawalit yesterday chaired a seminar on logistics issues in the Pacific attended by senior military officials from the region.

In an opening speech, the army chief said Thailand must be part of the Cambodian settlement.

But he added: "Essentially the Cambodian problem is the problem of the socialist world, and needs to be resolved by the socialist countries."

He suggested that the best way to end the war is to have China, the Soviet Union and Vietnam negotiate.

Meanwhile, Roland Eng, a spokesman for Sihanouk said that the meeting was meant to allow Prince Sihanouk to assess "whether Hun Sen has become more reasonable about a settlement since the resistance has captured more territory".

Eng said the talks were set up at Sihanouk's initiative to show the prince was making every possible effort to end more than 11 years of fighting in Cambodia.

—Premier Chatchai yesterday urged the backers of the Cambodian factions to stop providing military assistance to end the 11-year-old conflict, head government spokesman Suwit Yotmani said yesterday.

The premier made the point during a meeting with a group of representatives from international aid organizations based in Phnom Penh.

He said the aid workers appealed to Chatchai to play an active role in bringing an end to the suffering of the Cambodian people.

The workers submitted a letter to the premier detailing the lack of assistance for millions of Cambodians.

"The effect of the war in Cambodia can be seen everyday. Thousands of children and adults have been the victims of indiscriminate laying of mines and live in fear and uncertainty," the letter said.

Chatchai said Thailand supports the policy of setting up a neutral camp for displaced Cambodians in preparation for their future repatriation.

Spokesman Outlines Agenda

BK2002094490 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0805 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Statement by Spokesman of the Prime Minister's Office Suwit Yotmani at press briefing at Government House Press Center—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Concerning the meeting between Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Hun Sen, I would like to give you a rough outline. Hun Sen will arrive in Thailand at about 1000 tomorrow morning. He will be met by the supreme commander who will escort him from morning until noon. I have no details about his morning activities. You will have to ask the supreme commander for that information.

At about 1400, Hun Sen, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, and the prime minister will meet at Ban Phitsanulok [office of prime minister's policy advisers]. These three might have about 10 to 15 minutes of conversation. After that, the prime minister will leave the two Cambodian leaders by themselves for talks. That means the talks between Prince Sihanouk and Hun Sen will start at about 1415, and they may continue uninterrupted until the evening hours, or until about 1900, if the matter takes time. At 1930, the prime minister will host a dinner for the two Cambodian leaders at Ban Ratchakhru [prime minister's residence].

Now for the reporters, when Hun Sen arrives at Ban Phitsanulok and when there is handshaking in front of the house, press and television photographers will be allowed to take pictures. When they have entered the Yellow Room of Ban Phitsanulok, reporters will be allowed to take pictures once again. When Prince Sihanouk and Hun Sen are about to hold their tete-a-tete, reporters will be given another chance to take their pictures. That means there will be three photograph sessions. A place will be provided for the mass media representatives who are not photographers to wait inside Ban Phitsanulok. Those are all the details I have for you. You will have to ask the supreme commander about the plan for the morning. [passage omitted]

Italy's De Michelis Visits To Strengthen Ties

Talks With Chatchai

BK1902152290 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis called on Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan at Government House this morning. He was accompanied by Permanent Secretary of the Foreign Ministry M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi. The Italian foreign minister is visiting Thailand as a guest of the Foreign Ministry on 18-19 February.

The Italian foreign minister said that his visit is aimed at strengthening the already good relations between the two countries. He also stated his wish to meet with government and private sectors in Thailand for an exchange of views on investment and trade. The prime minister welcomed the smoothness of bilateral relations as well as the growing trade volume. As Thailand is now implementing its economic development program with several interesting projects being launched, such as the Eastern

Seaboard Development Program, Thailand would welcome Italy's participation in the form of joint investment in the projects. The Italian foreign minister expressed interest in those projects.

The Italian foreign minister also exchanged views with the prime minister on Cambodia. The prime minister said that the Cambodian problem is an internal affair of Cambodia and should be settled among the four Khmer factions. He also thinks that other countries involved should scale down assistance for the factions. Cambodia is an agricultural country and, without support from other countries, it is impossible for Cambodia to manufacture weapons for fighting. The Italian foreign minister shared the prime minister's view. He then conveyed to the prime minister an invitation from the Italian prime minister for a visit to Italy.

Talks With Sitthi

BK1902125090 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] At the Foreign Ministry this afternoon, Director General of the Information Department Somphong Faichampa, in his capacity as spokesman of the ministry, briefed newsmen on the meeting between Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis and Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila which took place at the ministry from 1100 to 1200 today. The spokesman said that the visit by the Italian foreign minister is aimed at strengthening bilaterial and political relations.

[Begin Somphong recording] The Italian foreign minister stressed bilateral relations. Italy wishes to strenghten ties with Thailand because Thailand is a frontline state in Southeast Asia while Italy is a frontline state for European countries. Italy has been closely following developments in this region, not only about Cambodia, but also about cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, or APEC, and about problems and the role of ASEAN as an economic group. Italy wishes to strengthen economic cooperation and relations with ASEAN. As of 1992, Europe will become an integrated single market, which is a major economic change. Italy is interested in participating in major projects in Thailand, such as the petrochemical industry project, the transport and communications project at Laem Chabang port, and several infrastructure projects. [end recording]

Another topic which was given considerable interest by Italy is the national defense industry. Italy wished to export weapons to Thailand. The Thai delegation told the Italian delegation that Thailand wished to see greater cooperation between the private sectors of both countries. A business council should be set up, if possible, as Thailand has done with other countries. The director general of the Information Department said that the Boards of Trade and Industries of both countries are encouraged to cooperate more. The Joint Thai-Italian Commission, which meets twice annually, will hold its next meeting in Italy late this year. Topics for the coming meeting will include political issues.

Another interesting point was made by the Italian foreign minister who said that, because he is a member of Italy's Socialist Party, he wishes to see more exchanges between political parties of both countries, in terms of mutual information on international politics and political systems in each country, as this will enhance mutual understanding. The proposal is interesting and should be pursued.

Thailand and Italy established diplomatic relations in 1886, and both countries have maintained smooth relations since then for 104 years

Ceremony Planned for Destroying CPM Weapons

BK2002013390 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Feb 90 p 3

[By Soemsuk Kasitthipradit]

[Text] Hat Yai—Weapons and ammunition surrendered by the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) after the December 1989 agreement to end 41 years of armed struggle will be destroyed at former CPM strongholds in the South between February 22-24.

Col Phansak Samoson, Deputy Commander of the Thai-Malaysian Combined Task Force (CTF) said yesterday that CPM representatives, Thai and Malaysian authorities had agreed on the date during a closed door meeting at the Sena Narong Camp in this southern district yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Maj-Gen [major general] Phanthep Phuwanatnurak, CTF commander; Wu Ih Zu, CPM politburo member and representative of CPM leader Chin Peng who arrived in the South on Sunday [18 February] and is likely to observe the three-day ceremony; Rashid Maydin, CPM president; and Malaysian Special Branch Police.

Col Phansak explained that during the three-day ceremony, deep holes will be dug in former CPM strongholds in Yala and Narathiwat provinces where weapons and ammunition will be blown up.

He added that a Thai explosives expert would be involved in the process and that he did not expect any difficulties.

The weapons to be destroyed include 1,161 rifles, including M16s, AK47 assault rifles, and Carbine light rifles, 457 artillery shells, 13 mortar cannon, 318 hand grenades, and some 85,529 rounds of ammunition.

The Deputy Commander said the ceremony would begin in Than To and Yaha districts of Yala province, both former CPM special zones on February 22, then proceed in Sukhirin district of Narathiwat province, former stronghold of the CPM 10th Regiment on February 23, and finally in Betong district of Yala province, former stronghold of the CPM 12th Regiment, on February 24.

Representatives from CPM, Thai and Malaysian authorities will witness the ceremony.

Col Phansak said Malaysia attached great importance to the ceremony and would send representatives from its defence and interior ministries and Special Branch Police.

Fourth Army Deputy Commander Maj-Gen Kitti Rattanachanya and Maj-Gen Phanthep will represent Thailand.

The destruction of CPM weapons and ammunition is part of the agreement reached on December 2 when the CPM agreed to end their 41-year old armed struggle.

It was also agreed the destruction would take place within 75 days of the signing ceremony but the date has already been postponed twice.

Maj-Gen Phanthep said he believed all CPM weapons would be destroyed during the three-day ceremony because the number of weapons exceeded the 1,111 CPM members who agreed to end the armed struggle last year.

He added it was clear at the meeting that the CPM had been sincere throughout the two months since the December agreement and this was the result of the Thai side having expressed sincerity on the issue.

The CPM insisted there be no press coverage of the arms destruction, which was part of the December 2 agreement, but Thai authorities indicated the ceremony was of interest and that there should be coverage, according to a source at the meeting.

Maj-Gen Phanthep reportedly said the ceremony was a historical event which deserved to be recorded, but was turned down by the CPM when he asked if the Thai Army could take pictures.

He reportedly also asked the CPM to take the pictures themselves but was again turned down.

A source close to the CPM said Chin Peng did not want any coverage, while local observers said the reason may be the CPM feared the coverage would have a political impact because it would make it appear the CPM had been forced to end their struggle in defeat.

He added the Thai side nevertheless insisted there should be coverage.

The December 2 agreement also includes a five-year assistance programme whereby Thailand will provide some 140 million baht for the resettlement of the CPM members and their families from their former strongholds.

Top Aides Call For Bank Governor's Resignation

BK1902052890 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Feb 90 pp 1, 2

[By Sutichai Yun]

[Excerpt] Bank of Thailand Governor Kamchon Sathirakun is fighting a growing demand from the central bank's top brass for him to step down over his failure to protect the bank from what was seen as blatant encroachment on its traditional independence by Finance Minister Pramuan Saphawasu.

The central bank's five assistant governors and directors of five of the seven departments sought a meeting with Kamchon on Jan 17 to express their "grave concern" over the bank's eroding status and frequent snubs delivered by Pramuan.

The meeting was described as unprecedented by one of the participants. It was the first time that the central bank's top executives decided to tell the governor personally and in no uncertain terms that he should quit if he could not defend the bank's role as an independent institution.

Kamchon, however, argued that he had done his best and that the central bank's status may be less important than its "accomplishments." [passage omitted]

Vietnam

NHAN DAN Discusses 'Bush's Ambitions'

BK1902104590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 18 Feb 90

[18 February NHAN DAN article by Le Ba Thuyen: "Mr. Bush's Ambitions and His Drawbacks"]

[Text] Mr. Bush has assumed the position of the 41st White House boss against the background of complex issues facing the United States. Consequences left by the Reagan administration during its eight years in power were quite heavy, especially the state budget deficit and trade imbalance. Moreover, a fierce struggle is going on between two groups within the U.S. leadership circle. First, a bellicose group advocates increasing military power to support U.S. foreign policy. The second group is, however, more pragmatic; realizing the United States is sinking in the quagmire of an exorbitant arms race that will only weaken the U.S. economy, they hold that Washington's most dangerous opponent is not the Soviet Union but Japan and Western European countries. In other words, the security of the United States depends on its economic strength, and the country cannot nurture the illusion of having as much guns and butter as it wants at the same time. As a result, the United States must reduce its military expenditures to accumulate capital for economic restoration and development.

Assuming his position at the White House when the struggle of these two tendencies has not yet ended, Mr. Bush advocated a policy of maintaining an annual national defense budget of about $300 billion, the same amount used by the Reagan administration in its last year in power. However, U.S. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney on 19 November 1989 announced a program of reducing $180 billion in military expenditures up to 1994. This program affected the whole U.S. military power structure and bases in Western Europe and Asia.

In his 31 January State of the Union message, President Bush proposed reducing U.S. and Soviet troops in central Europe to 195,000 on each side. However, with this proposal 35,000 U.S. troops stationed in Britain, Italy, Greece, and Turkey will not be affected. Besides, Washington still has more than 150,000 troops in the FRG.

Public opinion held that although the United States showed its acceptance in disarmament and reduction in military commitments in some foreign countries, its attitude in this regard is a half-way policy. In his State of the Union message, Mr. Bush still advocated continuation of plans to perfect the three strategic weapons systems and acceleration of the SDI program to gain military superiority over the Soviet Union, to exert control over its allies, and to realize its scheme of stopping and eliminating liberation and national independence movements.

Facing this complex, difficult situation, President Bush had to spend four to five months in his first year in office to review various policies. The vital tasks of the new administration are to improve the U.S. economy and to restore U.S. competitiveness by the year 2000. Concentrating on domestic policy, the Bush administration determined to maintain U.S. annual economic growth at three percent, the same level attained by the Reagan administration; resolve serious consequences of Reganomics and the budget deficit; and continue to implement the former administration's policy on overcoming the economic structure crisis and restoring U.S. competitiveness by the end of this century.

Since the second quarter of 1989, a new situation in the United States has posed a concern to the administration; this was slow U.S. economic growth, which declined to just over one percent in last year's fourth quarter. This is a warning of an approaching economic recession.

Moreover, on the social front, as the BBC noted in its 22 January 1990 review of Bush's achievements after one year in office, the United States still met with difficulties arising from the number of homeless people; the particular problems facing urban areas such as crime, drug addiction, and lack of educational and health care facilities; and racial tensions. Mr. Bush was criticized for being unable to work out direct solutions to these problems.

On the international front, the Bush administration's one year in office was marked by three major events. First of all, taking advantage of the difficulties facing the Soviet Union and East European countries, Mr. Bush made use of such maneuvers as the policy of stretching out one's hand to meet the East and the five-step plan with the Soviet Union. He made visits to Warsaw and Budapest to advertise for new U.S. policies toward countries in this part of the world.

Mr. Bush made every effort to make it known that far from trying to take the upper hand as enemies always do, the United States welcomes and supports restructuring. Nevertheless, public opinion has every reason to believe that in the hope of pushing back and getting rid of socialism by the end of this century, Mr. Bush is trying by all means to carry out his peaceful evolution scheme to undermine the socialist countries through subversive activities from within, to force these countries to shift back to the capitalist economic system and the bourgeois democratic system, and to gradually pull a number of countries away from the socialist orbit.

Nonetheless, as admitted by the U.S. press circles, the United States has met with difficulties in realizing this scheme, because no country can come to the rescue of other nations when the country itself is overwhelmed with budget deficits. In addition, U.S. budget constraints have had an adverse impact, because they made it impossible for Washington to supply substantial funding for the cause of freedom [suuj nghieepj tuwj do]. Meanwhile, the Bush administration's strategy aimed at undermining socialism has made it necessary for the socialist countries and progressive forces worldwide to heighten vigilance.

Second, in an effort to cope with economic and political contradictions with allied countries, especially Japan and Western Europe, the Bush administration has adopted a very contradictory policy. On the one hand, it wanted to strengthen and consolidate its political and military alliance with other NATO member countries and Asia-Pacific nations. On the other hand, it has exerted strong pressure and fiercely competed with these countries in a bid to force them to make economic concessions. As a result, many trade wars have occurred.

Third, with regard to newly established independent countries and developing countries, Washington has been compelled to enter negotiations in order to work out political solutions to regional conflicts. Nevertheless, the Bush administration has clearly exposed its warmongering nature by sending troops to invade Panama, an independent and sovereign country. This invasion has sharpened the contradictions between the Panamanian and Latin American peoples and the United States and is further proof that the U.S. imperialists remain the most dangerous enemy standing in the way of independence and peace for world nations.

In 1990, there is a possibility that more difficulties will lie ahead because of an approaching economic recession. Is it possible for the 41st U.S. President to achieve the objectives he solemnly pledged to fulfill during his current term and become a two-term president as he has dreamed? Public opinion says that it will not be easy for Mr. Bush to do so.

Meetings Held on Party's Mass-Proselytizing Work

VFF Discusses Platform

BK1802132590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Station correspondent's report on 16 February debate organized by the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee in Hanoi to discuss the CPV's draft platform on renovating and intensifying mass-proselytizing work—with portions recorded]

[Summary] "A debate was organized by the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] Central Committee in Hanoi on

16 February to discuss and contribute suggestions to the party Central Committee eighth plenum's draft platform on renovating mass-proselytizing work and truly developing the people's right to mastery."

Participating in the debate were Nghiem Xuan Yem, Nguyen Xien, Nguyen Van Tu, Professor Nguyen Lan, Professor Hoang Xuan Nhi, Army Hero Colonel La Van Cau, Poet Cu Huy Can, Vietnam College Students Association Secretary General Tran Mai Huong, and many VFF Central Committee members on work assignment in the north.

"Opening the debate, Comrade Le Quang Dao, member of the party Central Committee and chairman of the National Assembly, briefed the participants once again on the various steps leading to the party Central Committee eighth plenum's draft platform, the main points of the draft document, the party's objectives and standpoints regarding current mass-proselytizing work, and the urgent need for the party to renovate its leadership over this important task in order to truly develop the people's right to mastery and vigorously develop the mass-revolutionary movement into an aggregate strength, thereby creating conditions for effecting changes for the better in society and successfully building socialism in our country."

The first thing worth noting at the debate is the fact that "delegates from the VFF Central Committee have all expressed joy and enthusiasm over the party's decision to make public the party Central Committee eighth plenum's draft platform to solicit the opinion of all party members and people before submitting it to the party Central Committee eighth plenum." This is good because it is proof of the party's adherence to the principle of regarding the people as the root.

According to Professor Nguyen Lan, "This is a good opportunity for rectifying the shortcomings displayed by the party so far." Army Hero La Van Cau suggested that as far as the armed forces are concerned, the party should review the policy toward members of the armed forces in general and meritorious revolutionary families and dependents of fallen combatants in particular. In the colonel's words, it is certain that if "timely measures" are taken to improve the material and spiritual life of social welfare recipients, the party's new mass-proselytizing work will have a "greater power of persuasion."

Some delegates noted that the party has made it known that it is its policy to appreciate the contributions of talented people. "Nonetheless, in practice, leading agencies and administratiave organs at all levels have continued to show intense prejudices for non-party members, making it impossible for the party to bring into full play the strength of the masses outside the party."

Others said that the contents of some parts of the draft platform still fail to concretely address the party's standpoints vis-a-vis mass organizations, and suggested that the party renovate its leadership over these organizations.

Generally speaking, the delegates emphasized the need for all party members and grass-roots party organizations to take the lead in developing their strongpoints and rectifying their shortcomings in carrying out the party's mass proselytizing work. They also expressed the hope that the party Central Committee would match its words with its deeds and go all out in implementing the new mass-proselytizing platform.

Youths, Students Meet

BK1802080090 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 17 Feb 90

[From the Daily Press Review for 17 Feb]

[Text] NHAN DAN today reports on a recent meeting held by the Vietnam Youth Federation and the Vietnam Students' Association to discuss and contribute ideas to the draft platform on the party mass-proselytizing work to be submitted at the upcoming Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee's eighth plenum. Those participating in the meeting expressed the following main viewpoints:

1. It is not good timing to issue a resolution on the mass-proselytizing task. The party should issue resolutions on problems that most concern the people. Currently, the people are concerned about issues related to the party's efforts to consolidate and perfect its revolutionary leadership ability, to promote democracy and improve the people's livelihood, and to enhance the people's daily life. A review of implementation of the party Central Committee's seventh plenum resolution should be made before the upcoming party Central Committee's eighth plenum. The party should concentrate on the party Central Committee's seventh plenum resolution to issue socioeconomic programs and strategies, thereby helping to pinpoint orientations for the mass-motivating task. The party issued Resolution No. 26 on youth activities several years ago, but it was forgotten by all concerned.

2. The spirit expressed in the party draft platform did not vigorously motivate the people. The platform should be written so that all social groups can see their role in the task. The party Central Committee should revise the draft. Presentation of the mass-proselytizing work in the draft platform was not precisely made and the wording was old and unattractive. Thus it could not correctly reflect the party's intention. Reading the draft platform, one cannot see the party's real efforts in renovation. The people are expecting the party Central Committee's eighth plenum to usher in a vigorous renovation. The mechanism and law ensuring the people's power should be mentioned in the platform.

Dealing with relations between the party and people, some participants said all the blame was thrown on the party Central Committee, especially on issues concerning shortcomings and mistakes. There was no mention of the responsibility borne by party cadres and members. This trend could hurt the party as well as the people's sentiment toward the party.

Workers Confederation Debates

BK1902093690 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] The Confederation of Vietnamese Workers Secretariat and Party Committee held a political debate on 17 February 1990 to contribute opinions to a draft program for the party's mass-mobilization work. Besides opinions hailing the party Central Committee Secretariat's advocacy to solicit suggestions to the party's program for mass-mobilization work, it was widely observed that the appraisal section of the program was still scanty, for the party failed to frankly admit that its mass-mobilization work was under-emphasized in recent years. It was also observed that while the party serves as a ruling body for the administration, a segment of party cadres and members have committed mistakes, become bureaucratic and commandism-oriented, and alienated themselves from the masses. As a result, the close bonds between the party and the people have declined.

As for the goal of renewing mass-mobilization work, it is believed that to develop the strength of the people in enforcing various party advocacies and lines, it is necessary to renovate party leadership, state management, and the activites of various political and social organizations. Therefore, the second point of the program must receive top priority.

Regarding trade union work outlined in the program, it was widely observed that the party has failed to properly evaluate the role and position of trade unions and that the program did not properly reflect the functions of trade unions as already expounded in the Constitution. Trade unions should have a certain role and authority in the state and should serve as a prop and collaborator for preserving the state.

Australia

Opposition Leader Confident of Election Victory

BK1602043790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0249 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Melbourne, Australia, Feb 16 (AFP)—Opposition leader Andrew Peacock said Friday the conservative coalition parties would win next month's general elections because the labor government had taken the Australian economy "perilously close to collapse."

Mr. Peacock said Prime Minister Bob Hawke's announcement earlier Friday of a March 24 poll date was "good news for Australia" because it would end seven years of labor rule.

The Liberal Party leader claimed the coalition parties would gain at least 16 seats in the 148-seat House of Representatives, four more than it needs to win back government.

"Our detailed research shows we're going to win at least 16 seats," he told a news conference here.

Mr. Hawke's Labor Party held 85 seats in the outgoing Parliament. The liberals held 45 and their national party coalition partners 18.

Mr. Peacock acknowledged that the opposition parties were currently the underdogs, but rejected suggestions that problems within his party would cost it the election.

"I never mind where you start; it's where you finish," said Mr. Peacock, whose popularity has plummeted according to recent opinion polls.

He said Australian voters had a choice between a Hawke government that was about quick fixes and special deals for mates, or a liberal-led team that would turn the economy around.

Australia's current account deficit for the past six months had risen by 34 per cent over the same period the previous year and the country had sunk deeper into debt.

"We're second or third to Mexico, Brazil and perhaps the Soviet Union in indebtedness to commercial banks," he said.

Mr. Peacock said a coalition government would focus on its economic programs to restore living standards.

"For the first time in the nation's history we face the stark prospect that the next generation of children will be the first in the history of the country to have worse living standards than their parents."

Kiribati

Works, Energy Minister Ieruru Karotu Dies

BK2002064890 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] The president of Kiribati, Mr. Ieremia Tabai, has appointed a new member to his cabinet following the death last week of Works and Energy Minister Mr. Ieruru Karotu. The new minister for Works and Energy is Mr. Baitika Toum, a member of parliament from North Tarawa who had been dropped from the cabinet two years ago in a reshuffle which saw Mr. Karotu appointed. Meanwhile, Kiribati's Electoral Commission has yet to announce a by-election date for the dead minister's seat on the island of Aranuka, south of the main island, Tarawa.

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS quotes doctors as confirming that Mr. Karotu died of a heart attack after an early morning [words indistinct] swim off Tarawa.

Papau New Guinea

Somare Voices Support for Prime Minister

BK1902075690 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Papua New Guinea Foreign Minister Mr. Michael Somare has quashed speculation that he wants to replace Mr. Rabbie Namaliu as prime minister amidst the country's crises. Mr. Somare said he had no intention of becoming prime minister and had never made any suggestion of becoming one after his contributions in the last couple of years.

He said the opposition leader, Mr. Paias Wingti, and his deputy, Sir Julius Chan, made the suggestion during a luncheon of former prime ministers last week.

Mr. Somare said his loyalty was to the prime minister, Mr. Namaliu, and his political party. The foreign minister also said he would not allow himself to be used by anyone to undermine his leader's position.